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include the Houlder Living Workshop, a five-week course with a curriculum developed by Stanford University International Studies Center. It is all of this in the name of a tougher response to chronic offenders, such as wolf crime, house confinement and jail—all with a dose of service learning.

Ben Luna
BURLINGTON

Luna is a former deputy state attorney.

HELPING ADDICTS

I was very disappointed by your recent article entitled "Doogie Challenges, More Private Docs Are Treating Opiate Addicts" [November 10]. As a nurse specializing in medication-assisted treatment, I found this article to be discouraging and overly negative with regard to physician prescribing MAT. The fact that your article focused on the specific actions against a few prescribers was a disservice to MAT teams and prescribers everywhere. In the middle of an opiate crisis, we need all the physicians we can to offer MAT as part of their regular care.

Opiate-addicted patients are sometimes more likely to die of an overdose when not on MAT. The success generally reported in addiction showed that MAT is well supported in evidence but underutilized due to lack of prescribing providers and negative stigma. Vermont has been the only state in New England to see a decrease in overdose deaths since 2011 due to the buprenorphine model. We have seen an increase in available treatment options and more agencies in the state with more providers prescribing BUP as part of a general practice. This model offers comprehensive addiction treatment with a collaborative team approach and wraparound mental health, addiction and medical services, including primary care, counseling services, life skills training, vocational and STD testing.

We need more public support of MAT and less stigma so that we can better help any Vermonter seeking recovery.

Karen Wilbur
MIDDLEBURY

THE HIGH ROAD

[Re "Green State Gender: Photo Strike in Canada Market" December 7]. Recently, the online comments on a *Seven Days* story about Green State Gender took an ugly turn. An anonymous troll took it upon him or herself to disparage the business and its owners. One of those owners, understandably offended, responded to the troll, who for some reason likely identified as me. I learned a few days later and responded, defending myself. Rightfully understood, the business owners asked *Seven Days* to remove their slanderous

comments, which I did. We all wanted a breath of time and energy.

How to handle the comment section is a consideration for *Seven Days* — it can't track trolls, but it can cease slanderous comments made by their advertisers. For enough, it's a media business, not a media charity — and a decent good one that serves our Vermonters admirably.

For a public advocate for the cannabis cause and cofounder of a media outlet, Heidi Vermont, that dives further into cannabis questions. I live with these consequences from traffic tickets that free weed that I'd, but for all past, present and future sense underbelly, the call is for unity in the cannabis community.

I'll take the hot end, via this letter, your power pipe to the smoking globe, because in order for all Vermonters to enjoy greater liberty as patients, consumers or professional participants in the nation's fastest-growing industry, this cause must stay higher than our own interests, personal or professional.

Let's stick together to lead and make this happen in 2017.

Ed Harrington
EAST RUTHERFORD

Editor's note: A team of editorial and digital staff reviews every comment posted on our site, but we still occasionally miss one that violates our policy. We did end up removing the anonymous comment because it crossed the line, and we also removed the response at the request of the person who wrote it — a courtesy that we extend to all of our commenters, not just our advertisers.

DOYLE'S DOGIES

[Re "Doyle's Departing the Rutchhouse, but His Disciples Are Stopping Up" December 14]. I am somewhat of a newspaper critic, published and largely relied upon by members, in an article by a savvy female columnist, so we thought to take notice of the fact that all but one of Ben Doyle's "disciples" mentioned — and for whom he "found [a] his colleague" — to provide interludes — in white noise. And the one exception, Susan Swanson, merits a more full sentence of acknowledgment.

It should be no surprise, I suppose, that Doyle spent his 40 years as a very active recruiter for the Old Hope Club. It is, however, disappointing that neither Tom Hildebeck nor any other made the observation.

However much you might wish it to, *Seven Days*, we don't get live in the post-peternity.

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Shack in Vermont: December 28 to January 1 in Keene, a holiday that celebrates African American song and culture. In 2015, Fox College senior a Keenean celebration at the Schoolhouse in South Burlington.

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For our last cover of 2016, illustrator Jeff Shaw created a photo collage of celebrities who died this year.

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SATURDAY 30

3, 2, 1...

The capital city knows how to party — just look at the lineup for **New Year's Eve Downtown Montpelier**. Festivities

such as a 5K run, a magic show and a dazzling display of fireworks culminate in a blues-filled bash at City Hall, hosted by guitarist Dave Keller (pictured).

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 41



THURSDAY 29 Snow Globe

White snow on winter's real but no opportunity to struggle up mountains with a good book and a hot drink, others take the opportunity to dive headfirst into the great outdoors. Snowed out from the **BC Adventure Film Festival** after the last of last week's big snow storms, a virtual globe tour of snow from the comfort of their seats.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40



FRIDAY 30 & SATURDAY 31

Party Animals

Queen City goes wild! Montpelier has a thing for throwing large-scale parties, such as their 2015 Halloween Brawl and **Mad as a Hatter**. This year's **Howl** festival is a special occasion with special guests like the **Just Fools** and **the Wolf** and **the**

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 41

MUST SEE MUST DO

COMPILED BY
KRISTEN BAYN

WEDNESDAY 4 Women's Work



In the 1970s a group of nine African American women created an anti-poverty program run by women in **American Girls** in their story in her Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays lecture, "What if Poor Women Ran the World?"

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 41

6 SUNDAY 1

A Walk in the Woods

Mountaineer State Park welcomes winter hikers of all ages to make their way into **First Day Hikes**. Outdoor adventures start the New Year on the right foot by embarking on a variety of long-formative guided hikes on trails around the state. Local clubs are welcome, so feel free to bring friends.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 41

SATURDAY 30

Party Time

What better way to say "Goodbye" to 2015 than with a night of good music, new music and a midnight toast? **Pop-Up Dance Tents** Party presents **New Year's Eve** on an 18-week pop house and indie rock club nights at **Barlingham's** new DJ **Uki** and DJ **Rob Douglas**.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 41

4 FRIDAY 30 & SUNDAY 1 Joyful Noise

Four vocal soloists join more than 100 members of the **Green Mountain Chorus** for a holiday concert to benefit the Vermont Red Cross. The choral choir of soloists includes conductor David Bruce, the ensemble choral choir of soloists includes conductor David Bruce, the ensemble choral choir of soloists includes conductor David Bruce.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 36





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Signing Off

On the night of the Iowa presidential caucuses last February, I struck up a conversation in a Des Moines ballroom with a national political reporter covering Sen. **BENNY SANDERS'** (I-Vt.) campaign. When I asked what I do for a living, he described me with a sympathetic smile, "Don't it get boring covering politics in such a small state?"

I was baffled by the question. In the five years I've worked for *Seven Days* — and the four and a half I've written *Fair Game* — boredom is a condition I have yet to encounter.

In this age of congressional paralysis, the real public-policy action is taking place in statehouses across the country. Here in Vermont, we still have a fascinating government, capable of contemplating the thorniest of questions: What is the meaning of marriage? When is it acceptable to end one's own life? What is the value of human labor? Is medical care a fundamental right?

In this little state, citizen legislators ask and answer these questions in open committee rooms and legislative chambers. When we disagree with their conclusions, we give them as much of the famous snafu — or vote them out at the next election.

Covering this ecosystem and the eclectic characters that populate it has been fascinating and rewarding at every turn. Here, one can still practice journalism by going to know and getting to grill those who make the decisions — and not just only upon press releases, faxes and tweets. The right follow-up question or public records request can still break open a story and change the course of a debate.

I forgot exactly how I responded to that reporter in Iowa, but I remember what I was thinking of at the time: Isn't it boring following the same politician for months at a time, basing to the same story speech three times a day and racing a hundred others for the same scrap of a scoop?

It was a thrill to witness Sanders' non-victory that night and to cover what I could of his presidential campaign. I was grateful for the opportunity. But I also yearned to return to the State house beat, where my reporting was more likely to break new ground.

That night at the Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport, every major news

outlet in the country was present. But how many had sent reporters to cover the issues driving the Sanders insurgency: economic inequality, political corruption and the ravages of climate change? How many had explored the angles, distrust and economic malaise that would hand **DONALD TRUMP** the Republican nomination and, ultimately, the presidency?

The press has spilled plenty of ink since last month's elections wondering why voters wanted to make the system. But the answer is painfully obvious: We haven't paid enough attention to the struggles Americans face.

**EVEN HERE IN PERFECT LITTLE
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As I hand off *Fair Game* and move on to a new reporting assignment, I hope to do what I can to chronicle those struggles. I want to explore the inequities in our economy and learn how we might address them. I want to spend more time on investigations and less time at press conferences. I want to write about poverty, drug addiction and homelessness.

The grateful to my bosses at *Seven Days* — particularly colleagues **PAMELA NORTON** and **PAMELA POLLOCK** — for entrusting me with this storied column, whose previous authors taught me much of what I know about Vermont politics. How many people get to spend their working hours honoring government, covering issues at campaign fundraisers and buying an assault weapon just to prove a point?

Just as much, I appreciate the bosses' willingness to let me try something new at *Seven Days* — an attraction still willing and able to invest in compelling journalism.

Our political coverage will be as good as the Vermont Statehouse reporter **FRANK HALLIDAY** will be in Manchester this winter with **ALEXA PEREIRA**, who has spent the past three years covering Burlington for *Seven Days*. I'll continue to serve as political editor and will be joined in that

role by **CAROLINE PAUL**, who spent more than three decades writing and editing for the *Burlington Free Press*.

JOHN WALKER, a political blogger and former public radio journalist, will take over *The Green*. In his work at *Green Mountain Daily* and then the *Vermont Political Observer*, he has written with a strong voice, a perceptive take and a provocative, combative style. These are attributes that should serve him well in his new role at *Seven Days*.

I admit that the weekly political column sometimes feels like an anachronism. In this age of push notifications, hot takes and half-cooked opinions, who wants to wait until next Wednesday to read yesterday's news?

But I think the political columnist still has a vital role to play to connect the dots, call out the bullsh*t, comfort the afflicted and offend the comfortable. Politicians have more tools than ever to bypass the news media and broadcast their propaganda unchallenged and devoid of context. A nervous and depleted press corps no longer picks the path of least resistance, transcribing rather than challenging.

We need journalists who can tell the story behind the story, explaining not just the what but the why.

When he has seven out of ten for him, Vermont has a lot going for it. Its small scale and historical geographic isolation have fostered a political culture that is more thoughtful, honest, caring and close-knit than others. But Vermont exceptionalism only goes so far. Our politicians may serve us better than others, but they are still politicians. And we are all still humans who lie and cheat and steal and kill, as humans do.

Our high self-regard often gets in its own trouble. I can't tell you how many times I've witnessed Vermont legislators arguing that we don't need tight restrictions on campaign fundraising because they're all just so darn honest. Of their own small-dollar reelection muzz, they say, "Well, Gov. Calkins isn't buying my vote." What they fail to recognize is that in our contests for attorney general, governor and U.S. senator, those with financial stakes in the business of government throw money around with reckless abandon. Even here in perfect little Vermont, access and influence are still for sale. They just cost less.

We cherish our tradition of the citizen legislator, which has indispensably enlivened the rise of a professional political class. But we are too often blind to the challenges it brings: its part-time schedule and meager compensation makes it difficult for all but the wealthy and retired to serve. Those who will must make a living occasionally take jobs with organizations seeking to influence the legislature — and don't always disclose it. Because we don't provide our legislators with sufficient support staff, lobbyists fill the void with their own sets of "facts" and pressure bills.

We imagine ourselves on an island, safe from the perils that plague our nation's politics. But the U.S. Supreme Court's dismantling of the campaign-finance regime has brought the super PAC to our fair shores, too. As Vermont's little gubernatorial race demonstrated, the influx of outside money does nothing but make our elections dumber and meaner.

Our next governor, Republican **PHIL SCOTT**, will end a six-year period of Democratic dominance, but his election should not signal that we have a thriving multiparty system. The Democrats still have a lock on the Vermont House and Senate, along with every other statewide office. While the Vermont Progressive Party has made steady gains, the Vermont GOP remains anemic. Every eleven years, confusion incurs: how many challenges. That does not make for a healthy democracy.

Just as important as electoral competition is dogged oversight from a vibrant press corps. Since taking over *The Green* in May 2012, I've chronicled with depressing regularity how many talented reporters and editors have left or been forced out of the profession. Once-great institutions, such as the *Free Press* and the *Dartmouth Herald*, have become shadows of their former selves.

To be sure, there are still signs of life. Niche-minded outlets, such

as *Green Days*, *VTDigger.org* and Vermont Public Radio have labored to fill the void. And in the past year, two sets of newspaper investors have bought up two Vermont media companies: one that operates the *Randolph* and *Rare-Mountaineer Times Argus* and one that runs the *Brattleboro Register*, *Benning Banner* and *Albanshooter*.

JOURNAL With any luck, they will fulfill their promises to invest in real journalism and the humans who produce it. We should reward them with our support if they do.

I fret about the health of Vermont's statewide press corps, but I worry more about the towns and cities that can no longer count on a healthy local newspaper. How many advertisements and city councils must without a reporter in the room? How many businesses operate without scrutiny? How many wrongs are never righted? What are the stories we will never read?

In my state-wiring *Fair Game*, more than a few have scared me of cynicism. I hope it is true that I have been skeptical, probing and tough. I'm pretty sure that's my job. But I would argue that the true cynics are those who don't believe we can do better: the journalist who declines to cover a voting scandal or because it's never going to change, or the politician who knows corporate cash because everybody else is doing it.

I wouldn't do what I do if I thought we were incapable of change — of working out the kinks in this beautiful, flawed democracy. I cling to the perhaps naive notion that when we are armed with good information, we tend to make good decisions. I continue to believe that we can do better, and I hope that we will. ☺

INFO

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The Backstory

What Seven Days reporters didn't tell you the first time...

BY MARK DAVIS, ALICIA FRIESE, TERRI HALLENBECK, PAUL HEINTZ & MOLLY WALSH

Seven Days reporters go to great lengths to find the news in Vermont — and they may find themselves moved, unconvinced, inspired, lost or even injured in the process. But, presently speaking, they don't look back. So we asked them to recall stories they wrote in 2016 that,

for one reason or another, warranted revisiting.

Some provided entertaining anecdotes that didn't make it into the original pieces. Others used hindsight to note frames or trends that weren't evident at the time. A few checked back in to find out what happened to the people they

wrote about. Many shared their personal reactions.

The stories lost themselves to superlative categorization. What better way to acknowledge a year in which Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) almost became the Democratic nominee for U.S. president; Jay Peak's funding payment scheme

came knocking down; a state senator was suspended for alleged sexual assault; Burlington battled over a tall wall; a bunch of Vermonters ran for office; and Donald Trump won the White House?

It sure kept the *Seven Days* news team busy. Now, every one of our reporters is looking ahead to what's next. ☺



THE BIGGEST RACE THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

"Back in Montpelier, Lawmakers Pick Up Where They Left Off"

JAN 05 The 2016 race for Vermont governor could have had a different outcome — and it's not clear the right decision to make. See *Minorities' chance against governor Phil Scott*.

A year ago this month, House Speaker Ship Smith (D-Morrisville) sat down with *Seven Days* and talked about his difficult decision to give up his bid for Vermont's top job when his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It was something I really wanted to do, that this family was all in on. My supporters were all in," he said. "It's hard to shift gears that quickly, but it was so clearly the right decision to make."

As recently as last winter, with his wife on the mend, Smith considered rejecting the governor's contest.

"I thought a lot during the summer about whether I could get back in that race," he said last month. "I couldn't raise the kind of money necessary to put together a team and put forth that kind of a sustained effort."

Ultimately, in May, he opted to run for lieutenant governor and mounted a less vigorous campaign than expected. Smith lost the Democratic primary to eventual general-election winner Sen. David Zuckerman (D-Chittenden).

Smith and his confidants made the right decisions, given the circumstances. And between those decisions, he said, he didn't dwell on what could have been.

"I stopped thinking about whether I could have won," he said.

Of course, no one can know what a four-person Democratic primary would have been like instead of the three-candidate race we witnessed. If Smith had won that, would he have fared better against Scott than Warner did?

Asked this month to dwell on it just briefly, Smith indulged. Scott, better known to statewide voters after six years as lieutenant governor, was going to be tough for any Democrat to beat, he said.

"With the benefit of hindsight, if anybody was going to win, they would've had to run the equivalent of a straight fight," Smith said. "Everything would have had to be break right."

—TH

STRANGEST PRESS CONFERENCE

"Montpeculiar: A Suspended Senator Gets the Last Word"

JAN 07 The press conference is typically a staged and staid affair. A well-briefed politician stands at a podium, delivers perfectly on-message, pre-approved remarks and answers a few questions before a flock of yachtsmen or her out of town's way.

Sometimes, however, a press conference goes totally off the rails.

Moments after Sen. Norm McAllister (R-Franklin) was suspended from the Vermont Senate last January over allegations of sexual assault, he walked out of the Statehouse and headed for his truck. A pack of reporters, one and halfed, followed him out the door, asking him about the day's unprecedented proceedings.

The senator should have kept walking. But here's the thing about McAllister: He loves to talk. That's why every time I called him about his legal troubles, the conversation would start with him telling me his lawyer had instructed him to keep his mouth closed — and end with him doing the opposite.

The same happened that January day. McAllister pressed on a sidewalk outside the Statehouse and started yapping, like kept answering our questions until we said oh out of town.

In one characteristic exchange, WCAX-TV's Kyle Milner asked, "Do you attorney give you any advice as to whether to speak today?"

"Not to talk to you guys?" McAllister responded, laughing hysterically.



Sen. Norm McAllister greeting at Statehouse (far right) after his suspension from the Senate.

It wasn't terribly funny. The senator had been charged with serious wrongdoing — allegations he vigorously disputed — and he had just become the first senator in state history to face suspension.

There's a reason lawyers tell their clients to keep quiet. As anyone familiar with their Miranda rights knows, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.

At his impromptu press conference, McAllister discussed not only the politics of his suspension but lay details in his criminal case. He proceeded to contradict an earlier statement that he had engaged in consensual sex with one of his accusers. That particular exchange, noticed by Vermont Public Radio's Peter Hirschfield, would eventually lead to a prosecutor subpoenaing the radio reporter — even though half of the political press corps had also witnessed it.

After 15 minutes, the swarm of reporters began to dissipate, returning to the Statehouse to write their stories. "I think I've answered every question you guys wanted," McAllister said, looking pleased with himself. "Well, maybe not all of them."

He turned to me and cracked a joke about a subpoena I had recently received to testify in his case.

"Could I ask you?" he began, pretending to interview me. "Oh, never mind. I know you're gonna take the Fifth [Amendments] or whatever."

I turned back at him and didn't say a word.

"You're not even smiling about that one," he said with a laugh. "Thanks, guys!"

McAllister walked away from us and headed to his truck. The press conference, it seemed, was over.

—PH



The document sticking the future pope's choice to Vermont

BEST ASSIST

"Pilgrimage to Pomfret: Tracking Down Vermont's Papal Connection"

FEB 24 Winter weather warned the town of Pomfret on the February day I walked into the local library in hopes of meeting someone who knew the late Pope John Paul II's translator and special friend, Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, who once resided nearby.

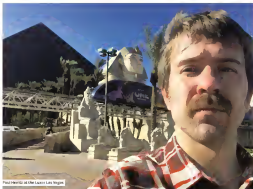
Within minutes, my prayers were rewarded. In cross-country skis, a retired nurse who lives next door to the library, she had met Tymieniecka several times before her death in 2004. Yes, she knew how to get to Oak-Ledge Farm, where the pontiff visited Tymieniecka and her family in the 1970s. And yes, she would be happy to take me there.

We journalists left restaurants all the time, or at least try. Sometimes they snub us. Sometimes they want to help but don't have useful info. Then there are strongmen such as Fuzazi — knowledgeable, connected and a hoot. GIVE

We loaded ourselves into my dusty Toyota and set out in the snowy landscape. The road curved along riverside, climbed past rolling farms. We chatted easily about the town, our grown children, newspapering. After 20 minutes, she directed me to turn onto a dirt road I would have missed on the first pass, and the second, too. We bounced up the rutted track, and Fuzazi immediately recognized the modest farmhouse. We knocked on the door together and, thanks to the networking skills of my trusty guide, were soon chatting all about Tymieniecka with another one of her acquaintances who answered the door.

After the interview, I drove Fuzazi back to the library and thanked her profusely. The truth is, a stranger helped me report my story, and now she's getting some credit.

—PHM



Paul Hentges at the Flamingo Las Vegas

SKETCHIEST REPORTING ACCOMMODATIONS

"Bern Force One: On the Road and in the Air With Sanders"

"Inside a Las Vegas Casino Caucus"

FEB 24 Covering a presidential campaign is not as glamorous as it sounds, particularly when you're doing it on the cheap. From my first day to leave in September 2016, I learned

fast reporting on Bern "Bernie Sanders" (D-VT) White House aspirants would involve plenty of motel-car counters, gas-station pizza and shared motel rooms.

Over the next two years, I became a freelance commensal, seeking out the best deal I could find in whatever pocket town I found myself in every Sunday. I learned a thing or two. If you're traveling across Wisconsin, avoid the Barbours Campus Inn Motel. In South Carolina, the Rack Inn Howard Johnson is particularly scary. And if you're looking to stay near Philadelphia International Airport, I'd recommend the Ramada. Had I had the hotel.

There were a few bright spots. The Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport, where Sanders held his cross-country celebration, has a decent cafeteria and a kitchen — by lower standards, at least — and a pool. Good thing, given that I didn't leave the place for 16 hours as I reported on Sanders' near-victory there pulled an all-nighter writing a cover story.

No doubt the strangest place I stayed on the campaign trail was the Lagoon Las Vegas. I was surprised when Pete Dinkins informed me that the famous presidential

complex was the cheapest place on the Las Vegas Strip. I soon learned why. After 25 years in action, the Lagoon's former glory had long since faded. I even still recall the sweet smooch that permeated its lobby-café — and later the 24-hour hum of slot machines, arcade music and drunks, all fully audible from my second-floor room.

Gen. Roméo Gauthier displaying in Rome, Italy



Of course, everything about reporting from Vegas was bizarre — from the Nevada State Democratic Party caucus I covered inside the New York-New York Hotel & Casino to the Elvis impersonator who told me he was backing Donald Trump. I even had a near-death experience when I hitched a ride in Sanders' concession speech with VTDigger.org's Jasper Craven, who blew a red light or two and drove dangerously close to Sanders' motorcade.

At least I blended in with the crowd. Before setting out for Vegas, I shaved my beard onto the slouchiest mannequin I could muster — and wore a vintage pleather jacket throughout my Nevada journey.

—PH

STORY I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP WRITING

"Police Killing of Mentally Ill Man
Raises Questions — Again"MAR
30

In hindsight, the deadly March confrontation between Burlington police officers and 36-year-old Ralph "Pho" Gerson seemed almost inevitable. Gerson, who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, had been ruled mentally incompetent to stand trial in criminal charges in 2009. In the months before his death, neighbors called police repeatedly to say he was yelling, threatening them and appeared to be hallucinating.

When police went to his downtown Burlington apartment on March 21, Gerson brandished a knife and refused to surrender. After a five-hour standoff, Gerson charged at heavily armed police with two large knives. They fired a stun gun, and, when that failed to subdue Gerson, Officer David Sowers shot him to death.



Ralph "Pho" Sowers



Officer David Sowers

For years throughout Vermont, similar confrontations between police and the mentally ill have resulted in deaths and injuries.

In November 2015, just a few miles north of Gerson's home, Burlington police fatally shot New North End resident Wayne Brannette in similar circumstances. Brannette, who a police dispatcher said was experiencing a "mental health issue," charged police with a shovel.

The question in the aftermath of these incidents never seems to get answered. How could the mental health system allow a person to deteriorate to the point where they become violent and police are summoned? Could police have eased the situation before the fatal confrontation? Should law enforcement's use-of-force rules change?

"It seems like every six months or so, someone with a severe mental illness is being severely injured or killed by police," said a weary A.J. Rubin, the veteran attorney for Disability Rights Vermont, after the Gerson shooting. "And we hear every month that the mental health system is in crisis. The story is the same."

In the weeks after Gerson's death — and the announcement that Sowers had acted lawfully in killing him — people made the usual calls for more help for the mentally ill and for greater protection from police.

But if history is any guide, our 2017 year-in-review issue is unlikely to feature a similar story.

—MB

THE BACKSTORY • P. 18

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A rendering of the recently announced development.

FAKEST-SOUNDING NEWS THAT WASN'T

"Wealthy Mormon Buys Up Vermont Land for Massive Settlement"

APR 05

Utah entrepreneur David Hall wants to build a 20,000-person settlement on 5,000 acres in four tiny rural towns in Vermont. His inspiration, an 1833 blueprint drawn up by the Mormon church founder Joseph Smith, Hall had chosen these towns because they surround Smith's birthplace.

Seven Daysreported earlier March, when a local historian discovered that Hall had purchased roughly 800 acres in the area—and broke the story on a local news site, Daily UV. She put me in touch with Hall, and he immediately emailed back with his home address, cellphone number and a one-line message: "Share with anyone."

Word spread quickly to the towns that would be transformed by Hall's so-called NewVista project—including Threlkeld, where I grew up.

When I called Hall, he patiently fielded my questions for nearly an hour. He explained how his father had made a fortune by inventing a synthetic diamond used for drilling, and he was using proceeds from selling the family company to fund his futuristic endeavor. It was bizarre flattery to someone who sounded completely rational describe high-tech toilets capable of measuring the sugar content in urine.

Lately, Hall came to Vermont to meet some of his critics in person. At a regional planning commission meeting in Woodstock, I watched the white-haired man in a crisp white dress shirt tell a local farmer that Vermont should transition to a hydroponic farming model, similar to what's used for marijuana cultivation.

Concerned residents—some even convinced Hall is crazy—have since formed a nonprofit called Alliance for Vermont Communities to fight the future development and preserve local farmland. Town planning commissions are talking about establishing de-utero limits.

I called Hall again on December 14 to see how things were going on his end. The 60-year-old entrepreneur

was characteristically congenial as he reported that he now owns nearly 1,500 acres in Vermont. Landowners looking to sell are still reaching out to him. The toilets are not yet market-ready.

He repeated his assurances that it will be decades before a NewVista community is created in Vermont. But within 15 years, he wants to build some apartments here, starting near the Vermont Law School in South Kiptonham.

He's working on a prototype at his hometown of Prosser, and when it's complete, he and his wife plan to move into one of the 400-square-foot units. "It'll be an early guinea pig," he promised.

For now, his Green Mountains State public relations tour is on pause.

"The more I communicated, the reddier they got," he said. "For not really that bad a guy, I think."



David Hall

BIGGEST REPORTING REGRET

"Fraud Cases Against Jay, Burke Owners Allege 'Ponzi-Like' Scheme"

APR 14

I'll never forget it. Reporting a story in March 2012—a month after I started at Seven Days—a source told me in an off-the-record conversation that a massive expansion at Jay Peak was part of what this person called "a Ponzi scheme."

I worked the angle as best I could, but I got nowhere. The story I ended up writing that spring outlined overnight inns within the federal E9-5 entertainment visa program—the vehicle through which Jay Peak's owners funded the development. And it quoted a former Jay partner and an industry lawyer naming some questions about the industry. But there was no mention of a Ponzi scheme.

More than three years later, in July 2015, I traveled to the resort again—this time to interview Jay Peak president Bill Sawyer about a series of damning developments at the resort, which had been well-chronicled by VTIspring.org. I thought I'd get to hear with Streger, but he gave me the whole day. We drove from Jay to downtown Newport to Northeast Kingdom International Airport to Burke Mountain Resort and finally back to Jay.

For every question I asked, Streger had a ready answer. By the end of the day, my notebook was full, and I had no idea what to think. I remember telling a colleague a few days later that I wouldn't be surprised if everything Streger had said was true—and I wouldn't be surprised if everything he said was false.

In the end, I was just as surprised as most Vermonters when WCAX-TV reported the night of April 13, 2016, that a massive law enforcement operation was under way at Burke Mountain. The next day, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced that it had filed civil charges against Streger and Jay Peak owner Ariel Quares, alleging more than \$200 million in fraud.

It had all been a, the SEC wrote in charging documents, "a Ponzi-like" scheme.

My source had been right—and I had missed the story.

—J.H.

A chart detailing the alleged inappropriate flow of funds within Jay Peak and Burke E9-5 programs.



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The Backstory a.m.



Sheriff Roger Marston Jr.

UNLIKELY STORY

"A Second Chance: A Vermont Sheriff Risks His Career by Hiring a Sex Offender"

APR
27

When he learned that a "high-risk" sex offender had moved into his jurisdiction, Lenoire Sheriff Roger Marston Jr. was alarmed — and annoyed. Timothy Reed had served a 13-year prison sentence for sexually assaulting a young boy in Rockingham. Media coverage of his case prompted vigilante-style reactions. After a failed cross-country search for a new home, Reed ended up in Hyde Park, where he knew no one. Outraged residents demanded that the elected sheriff do something.

Marston came up with an improbable solution. In hopes of keeping an eye on Reed and also giving him a purpose, he hired the sex offender. Under the supervision of one his deputies, Marston contracted Reed and his roommate to renovate a run-down building that the department had purchased in Hyde Park to serve as an office.

Seven Days documented their collaboration in April. Both men feared the story could provoke a backlash — or even violent reprisals. Instead, Marston and Reed have welcomed dozens of officials who were curious to see their property close. Johnson State College students made them the subject of a class project. Marston, along with this reporter, scripted an invitation from a prison ministry to speak to inmates inside Vermont's Southern State Correctional Facility.

Since the story ran, Reed, with the help of Marston and others, managed to get a driver's license, arrange for a bank loan — no easy task, since he had no credit — and buy his own pickup truck.

At Marston's urging, Reed allowed the sheriff's department to install a GPS unit inside the truck, to protect Reed from community members who might make false reports — or less likely — and to keep tabs on him.

Reed may be both a little more comfortable with every passing day. While he once talked of leaving Vermont and starting over somewhere warmer alone, now he says he'll probably stick around.

But his struggle to adjust to his peculiar brand of small-town notoriety — especially "It's still a little weird in the world after 13 years of incarceration," Reed said. "You can get so used to a routine — When you get out in the world, you have to fend for yourself. It's still hard to get used to everything. Sometimes I feel the eyes upon me in the community — people recognize me. It still feels weird — a lot of times."

Work on the building should be wrapped up in the coming weeks. But the sheriff's department

owns other nearby buildings in need of repair. And there is lawn care, maintenance, mechanical work on the cruiser — Reed may turn into a long-term contractor for the department.

"It is continues to impress us with his work ethic, and we just think he's in a good place in his life," Marston said. "When you peel everything back, this wanted due to work. Tim deserves the credit."

In the end, though, Marston may have been more impressed by their relationship. The sheriff, a Republican with a traditional law-and-order outlook, has found a new calling: helping recently released inmates. He talks excitedly about potential programs he could house in the buildings Reed is busy repairing.

Could he convert one into some kind of halfway house for long-term inmates — including violent sex offenders such as Reed — to help them find work and gain a foothold in society?

Female inmates, who are often saddled with child-rearing responsibilities, are notoriously difficult to help — could he get a state contract to house a few inmates affected by incarceration?

"No way idea have come out of this," Marston said. "Having to figure a way to protect my community from Tim, I had to reexamine my thinking and do the best I could."

—H.B.

MOST TIME SPENT ON LEGISLATION THAT WENT NOWHERE

"Smoked: Why The Pot Legalization Bill Failed"

MAY
11

Gov. Peter Dinkens wanted Vermont lawmakers to legalize marijuana in 2016 — before any other New England states did. He found an ally in Senate Judiciary Committee chair Chuck Beers (D-Bennington), who gave him a committee on end-of-theory deadline and moved a bill through the Senate by February 23.

But the House was never sold on the idea. Moving slower than a snail's nighttime driver on Route 3,



members spent more time debating pot than on any other legislation — without producing a thing.

To refresh your medium-term memory, here's a history of last year's pot progress in headlines — all blog posts I wrote!

- "Senate Revs up Marijuana Bill, Moves It to the House," February 25
- "A Divided House Judiciary Committee Ponders the Pot Bill," March 16
- "Shumlin Opposes House Marijuana Legislation Plan," March 28
- "House Panel May Vote Its Own Marijuana Bill," April 5
- "House Considers Decriminalizing Small-Scale Pot Cultivation," April 7
- "House Panel Rejects Scaled-Back Marijuana Bill," April 8
- "House Panel Puts Marijuana Legislation Back in Play," April 15
- "In Stealth Move, Senate Sends Pot Legislation Back to House," April 27
- "Worked: House to Vote on Marijuana Legislation After All," April 28
- "House Passed to Vote on Decriminalizing Homegrown Pot," May 2
- "House Defeats Senate Marijuana Legislation Bill," May 3
- "House Denies Marijuana Legislation, Cautions," May 3
- "Bad for Marijuana Legislation Reintroduction Puts on Senate," May 5
- "Lawmakers Plan Off-Season Marijuana Discussion," May 8

The pot debate will be back in 2017. Sparked by the legalization of marijuana in Massachusetts and Maine, House Judiciary Committee chair Monroe Gird (D-Mandarin) and chair's new ally to the idea, Now's governor-elect Phil Scott who is sounding reluctant.

—T.H.

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Barclay Mayor Chris Lounas



Photo courtesy of the AR-15

STORY WITH THE LONGEST LEGS

**"Right in Rutland:
Will Mayor Chris Lounas Fall
on His Sword for 100 Syrians?"**

JUN
08

Rutland Mayor Chris Lounas was in political hot water when *Seven Days* profiled him in June. The Republican-leaning independent had quickly made arrangements to relocate 100 Syrian refugees in the city — without informing some key players. A number of older men attacked Lounas for a lack of transparency, and he faced an angry backlash fueled by national rhetoric and ignorance about the refugee process.

But Lounas held firm — even when opponents called for a citywide vote on the resettlement plan.

"The people that have concerns about process, my issue with that is ... the other option would have been voting on allowing people to come into our community," said Lounas, whose paternal grandfather emigrated from Greece to the U.S. "And we don't do that in America."

Meanwhile, three-presidential candidate Donald Trump was on the campaign trail, promising to ban all Muslim refugees from entering the country.

I charged into Lounas in Rutland's Coffee Exchange Café in late September and mentioned that I was surprised that the refugee debate showed no signs of abating. He or *Seven Days* had thought we caught him at the height of it, I said.

"I know!" Lounas said. "Me, too."

Two months later, Trump became the president-elect. That hasn't made the Rutland mayor's job any easier. "The constant and unending stream of the rhetoric around refugee resettlement, I think, is a direct result

of the language our president-elect ... was using in the summer," said Lounas. "It gave people the license to continue with that dialogue."

Lounas, who is up for reelection next year, said he has no idea how Trump's win will affect Rutland's plan. The first Syrian refugees are still scheduled to arrive in January.

—H.B.

MOST EXPENSIVE STORIES

**"The Gun: How I Bought
an AR-15 in a Five Guys
Parking Lot"**

**"Courting Disaster:
An Erosion of Press
Protections in Vermont"**

JUN
15

JUN
22

advertising dollars

This year I managed to blow plenty of dough in the service of filing these pages. In, which story was the most expensive?

Well, there was that time in June when I bought an AR-15 in a South Burlington parking lot to show how easy it was to avoid a criminal background check. I can still see the bearded look-alike *Seven Days* business manager Cheryl Brownell give me when she handed over an envelope stuffed with \$380 cash.

At first I thought we might be able to read the weapon after I reported my story — and, you know,

make a little scratch off the debt. Then I realized it might not be wise to market a potentially violent firearm. In the end, we turned it over to the Quaan City Police Foundation, care of Burlington Police Chief Bradman del Peco.

With my luck, *Seven Days* ran at least double the expense as a charitable contribution.

For more expense than "The Gun" was our coverage of Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) presidential campaign. In 2016 alone, we spent more than \$15,000 on plane tickets, motel rooms, rental cars, rentals, freelance photographers and two very expensive dogs (*SLASH*) on Sanders' chartered Eastern Airlines Boeing 737. These figures don't include the salaries of the many reporters and editors who pitched in on the project.

Both those stories were cheap compared to our coverage of Sen. Norm McAllister's (R-Vermont) legal troubles. Six months after the Vermont State Police arrested the Franklin farmer for sexual assault, a county prosecutor delivered subpoenas for three *Seven Days* staffers. He hoped to question us under oath about the reporting we'd done on the McAllister allegations — and get her arms on our tape recordings, notebooks and minds.

We fought back, hiring Gravel & Sher's Robert Herlihy to argue that the move was an unconstitutional abrogation of our press freedoms. The prosecutor eventually dropped *seven-days* Matthew Ray's subpoena, and a state judge quashed mine. Reporter Mark Dixon wasn't quite so lucky. But before he could be called to the stand at a June trial, the prosecution's case fell apart.

By then, *Seven Days* had already forked over more than \$15,000 in legal bills to protect us from this prosecutorial overreach.

We may not have won the last of the Franklin County Courthouse. McAllister faces a second trial in January — and Dixon is on the witness list.

—PH

ASSIGNMENT THAT MADE ME GRATEFUL FOR INDOOR PLUMBING AND ELECTRICITY

"A Reporter Gathers With the Rainbow Family"

JUN
29

The *Green Days* staff is chock-full of tattooed, leafy-substance-enjoying ladies and some experienced campers and hikers, and I am... none of those things. So it was to the sound of more than a few snickers that I departed the newsroom last June and headed into the woods to commune with the Rainbow Family of Living Light, a leaderless collection of hippies and lost souls who congregate annually to celebrate peace and nature.

For their 2016 gathering, which was expected to attract up to 20,000 people, the group had chosen the Green Mountains National Forest to ring Mount Tibbet. The devotees spend a month in the woods, setting up a sprawling encampment where everything is free and everyone is expected to pitch in.



Summer People (the Rainbow Family) gathering
COURTESY OF THE RAINBOW FAMILY



I set up my tent in a patch of woods a half mile into the encampment — strategically distant from the nearest hand-dug latrine and drum circle — and spent hours meandering the three-mile U-shaped trail, along which small camps and barbecues were beginning to come to life.

What did I learn?

Honestly, I'm still not entirely sure. But here's a partial list:

I learned that law enforcement is too far to maintain a heavy, if friendly, presence at Rainbow camps, even though the only crimes being committed involve a drug that many states are rushing to legalize. I learned that when a Rainbower tells you your smoke, they are really asking if you are an undermannered creep. And, I learned, as I unfortunately discovered first-hand, that

most people are decent and willing to meet you halfway, or even further, if you just extend yourself a little.

Most of my fellow campers called me "brother" greeted me with hearty calls of "welcome home" and tried their damndest to explain what the hell they were doing in Vermont — even after I told them I didn't have any cigarettes.

— M.B.

THE BACKSTORY IN FOCUS

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Brandon del Pozo

MOST INAPSPICIOUS START TO A STORY

"Burlington's Top Cop, Brandon del Pozo, Aims to Rewrite Policing"

JUL 13

Burlington Police Chief Brandon del Pozo had agreed to let me ride along with him on a Friday night. The mission: checking on foot patrol officers around the city. As we got into his black unmarked SUV, the chief clarified that the Coke and Snickers in the cup holder were not his — the previous passenger had left them behind.

I was profiling del Pozo, who at that point was about a year into the job. Quasimodo, opinionated and comfortable with reporters, he had already been in the news — a lot. I was hoping to see a different side of him.

Right away, del Pozo noticed splattered bugs on his windshield.

The Burlington police chief was not about to be seen driving a car with bug splatters. So we drove down Riverside Avenue to Newport's Cornwell — never mind that it had started to rain — while del Pozo rattled off crime figures like a statistician. When we got there, he couldn't remember the code Burlington police punch in, AT&T-style, to get their cruisers cleaned.

He called his deputy Dan Wright on a speakerphone. No answer. He called another deputy. No answer. He dialed a third number. Still not again, he said, "Just bear with me here." Not exactly the responsiveness you'd expect from Vermont's biggest police force.

I began to wonder how many people held off before giving up — and how much of my ride-along would be squandered at the car wash.

Finally, on the fourth try, someone picked up and told del Pozo the password. We drove through, emerging bug-free on the other side.

Del Pozo looked over at me with my notepad as my lap and said in a sardonic tone, "You can write. We wait though a car wash while it was raining. Chief was upset about the bugs on his windshield."

Try in 10 miles, I couldn't find a way to fit it into the story but it was too amusing to keep to myself.

—A.J.

BEST ROAD TRIP WITH A GAME WARDEN

"Sharp Decline in Vermont's Moose Herd Raises Questions About Hunting"

JUL 20

Moose have come dangerously close to my car windshield on more than one occasion, but I don't blame them for it. I always find it interesting to wonder about the strange-looking, lumbering creatures, whether it's a confused moose belling down in Barreburg's Hall Station or an albino moose shot by a teenage girl from Rutland. So in July I set off for the Northeast Kingdom to find out why their population is dwindling in Vermont.

We arrived around the day I drove through the remote logging roads of the Pishtang Basin, a vast, wild tract of land close to the Canada's border that being in a truck with Vermont game warden Randy Hazard for an afternoon gave me a glimpse of his working life, not all of which made it into my story.

For instance, I've always wondered: How do wardens working solo get 1,000 pounds of dead moose off the road after a collision in the middle of the night?

Hazard, a strapping former marine, was more than happy to show me his system for removing moose roadkill, which he employs some dozen times a year, despite the shaking of the herd. Wearing a side-arm and badge, he dashed into his truck's dashboard to demonstrate.

Hazard showed how he nailed together old highway signs to create a wooden plank that serves as a ramp when he's hauling in a moose. Then he pointed to a small, mounted truck-bed winch and pulled out a length of cable. To tie his anchor chain, he secured a loop for the moose's neck. Once the loop is attached, he hits a switch and the winch reels in the cable. Slowly, the moose is pulled up the ramp and into the truck.

Sometimes the moose winds up being served at game dinners — after Hazard drives it to a butcher who doesn't mind taking deliveries 24-7.

On my accident-free, two-hour drive home, in the waning light of a midsummer evening, I looked at the woods in a different way.

—M.M.

Estimated Vermont Moose Population



BIGGEST ELECTION CAFFE

"Environmentalist McKibben Dumps Dunne for Minter"

JUL 31

A week and a half before the August 9 primary election, an email showed up on my inbox.

"Matt Dunne Releases Renewable Energy Siting Policy" was the headline as a press release from one of those Democrats seeking the party's nomination for governor.

Interesting, I thought. I was in the middle of writing a story about their views on a variety of issues, including energy siting. I'd spoken to Dunne about it just days earlier. Would this new statement change anything?

I got as far as the first bullet point and knew it changed everything.

"As governors, Matt's policy on energy siting will be," it declared. "Large-scale ridge-line wind projects should only take place with the approval of the towns where the projects are located. As governors, I will ensure that no towns do."

This might sound innocuous to the uninitiated, but renewable energy advocates had just fought tooth and nail against legislation that would have allowed towns veto power over projects. To them, the notion is out-of-bounds, off-limits. And Dunne, a candidate trying to cast

himself as a climate-change-fighting liberal, even, had gone there.

I was so stunned that I almost missed the next surprise in the press release: Fellow Democratic gubernatorial candidate Peter Gifford, an avowed enemy of wind energy, was praising Dunne's stance. It was an about-face endorsement of his rival.

Dunne had made two mistakes. He misquoted how strongly some of his most passionate supporters felt about town vetoes on wind projects. And he locked arms with the eco-enemy Gifford.

An Dunne desperately tried to soften his statement — insisting that he wouldn't actually give towns full veto power — Gifford's readily told anyone who would listen that that's exactly what Dunne was talking about.

I forwarded the press release to environmentalist Bill McKibben, who had encouraged Dunne to run for governor.

"Bill, Wondered what you think of Matt Dunne's wind policy?" I wrote, deliberately staying neutral about its content.

The Riggs founder of 350.org responded two days later — with a 3,000-word essay. He was withdrawing his endorsement of Dunne.

It got worse:

"If at this point in this saga anyone still gives a flying fish who the voting fax, that would be Sam Minter," McKibben said of Dunne's other Democratic rival. Two days later, the Vermont Conservation Voters dropped its endorsed position in the race and also endorsed Minter.

Dunne overcame it coming. "People had a much stronger reaction than I expected," he told Seven Days. "The language around this is very, very tricky."

On August 9, Minter won the Democratic primary by a gaping 63 percentage points. She might have been headed for victory anyway, but that email on a Friday afternoon in late July made sure of it.

—TH



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MOST AWKWARD MOMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL

"TV T.J. Donovan: The Likely Next AG Pushes Criminal Justice Reform"

SEP 21 I had been on the campaign trail with Chatham County Solicitor Attorney T.J. Donovan for 11 hours — through staff meetings, court hearings, interviews and a political rally — and was really hoping the "day" was wrapping up at 8 p.m. on a Friday in September.

But he wasn't done and announced plans to grab a quick beer at a bar in Killebrew. It took the Democratic candidate for Vermont attorney general an hour to walk the room.

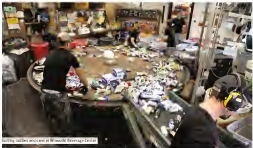
After that, we hit the road. Whymore had, Donovan's aide paid campaign staffer, took the wheel.

"Can we be off the record now?" Donovan asked in the direction of the backseat, where I was hunkered down for the long drive back to Burlington.

He had already answered every question I had planned to ask and many more that I threw at him because he was stuck with me. It was so awkward that I couldn't even see my notebook, which contained more material than I could ever use.

So I agreed. We had barely pulled onto nearby Route 4 before Donovan took control of the car stereo and cranked tunes from his favorite rock band, the Tragically Hip. Donovan began singing along, as loud as his perpetually scratchy voice would allow, and his drumming with as much energy that I looked like he might have a seizure.

As we wound our way north on Route 7 through the rural blackness, Donovan



Sorting recycling materials at a recycling center.

occasionally paused to tell stories of listening to the band with his buddies in college, or to wax poetic on the importance of enjoying life after a full day of hard work.

He teased Bush about her taste in music.

But mostly, for two hours, Donovan sang his ass off, completely aware that 1) he has a terrible voice, 2) a reporter tasked with writing a lengthy profile of him was in the backseat, and 3) it was only a couple of months before he'd return to Burlington that he hoped would give his political career a turndown. No one thinks Donovan plans to make attorney general his final political job.

We often criticize our politicians for being robotic. For sending down their rough edges. Say what you will about Donovan — and many say a lot — but nobody can accuse him of that. It was, for me, the most honest moment of Election 2006.

It took some negotiation, but Donovan later agreed to let me use the anecdote.

I traded the city's recycling center and set out at 6 a.m. on a Tuesday in the Old North End. Cars were everywhere during the two hours that I bled, cans were not. I ran into the same floor over and over again, and they didn't seem to understand my questions or pronunciation.

After several similar early-morning quests, we hired a Blaine-based transporter. The full week after my first foray, I picked him up in my car at 7 a.m. We drove along at 35 miles per hour, pulling over and securing my car as we encountered several closed with us, but I did need more material.

That didn't come for three more days, when, on Friday afternoon, the news gods took pity on a sleep-deprived, carb-starving reporter.

I heard the ringing and clattering before I saw Donovan pushing his shopping cart down the middle of Murray Street. The economic luncheon as a longtime "tricycles" he calls it. He said he was as a lawyer (tricycles has been suggested elsewhere) and didn't have a phone. But he gave me his address and suggested that I come over later, if I wanted.

It was an unseasonably hot October day, and I had planned to spend the evening playing bocce with some friends at Oakledge Park. But I couldn't pass this opportunity, so I linked downtown to Donovan's place instead.

When I arrived at his jam-packed second-floor studio, he was wearing army shorts with a red pantsy slung over his bare chest. He had on two baseball caps, one facing forward, the other backward.

Donovan ordered me toward his bedroom, which was barely big enough for both of us. I hesitated. He seemed offended, so I went. From there, we climbed through the open window and out onto a fire escape loaded with laundry plans.

As we looked out over Burlington, he talked at length in a thick island accent — about horticulture. It took a while, but I managed to steer the conversation to covering the redemptive center. Briefly.

STORY I LOST THE MOST SLEEP OVER

"No Return: Loss of a Redemption Center Complicates 'Canner' Lives"

OCT 19

When I got the assignment to cover the closing of Burlington's biggest redemption center and its impact on local "canners," it seemed pretty straightforward. Talk to the owners of Burlington Redeption, ask some colleagues how they're coping without it and check in with alternative places to see if they're getting more business.



MOST POIGNANT INTERVIEW

"Too Soon: Could the Suicide of a Burlington Artist Have Been Prevented?"

OCT 26

The moment Severity built opened the door of her apartment, I was struck by how much she resembled her late sister Dendane, with the same swirls of luxurious dark hair and porcelain skin.

She beckoned me in, offered me a seat and poured two cups of fragrant tea. We talked for two hours that rainy October night about the suicide of her 33-year-old sister, a much-loved Burlington artist. In that conversation I realized that Severity, 34, was looking out for her little sister — even in death.

I got me thinking about my own sister, Maura, my dearest friend and most reliable confidant. She is one year older, my "trash nurse" is a family of five children born in quick succession.

Today, we live several states apart, but I feel just as close to my sister as during our childhood, when we slept in matching Lane igloo-tees, our twin beds side by side in a room that looked out on a Minneapolis street arched by elms.



Dendane Bell

We competed, of course — for friends, clothes and time on our family's sole telephone. But more often, we were in harmony, literally, with her sagacity and my second soprano voice echoing around the house, to the annoyance of our three brothers and the delight of my mother.

And although Maura is just a little bit older, she has long been the big sister to count on. I can't imagine losing such a cherished bond.

So it seemed no task how Severity was looking after Dendane by asking questions about Vermont's patchwork mental health care system, which she believed failed Dendane.

As Severity talked, I realized how deep their friendship went back to Dendane's first: scrawled drawings and Christmas, grade school and college, young adulthood and joint adventures in far-flung places such as Peru. When Severity gave birth to her first child in 2015, Dendane cut the umbilical cord. Now death had cut the cord between the sisters.

Or had it? No, I concluded. Severity's apartment evoked Dendane in photographs and in her sketches and paintings. There was something else, too.

On the mantle sat a small, smooth stone — a very significant stone, Severity explained. After Dendane's death, the Bell family gathered on Cape Cod to cast some of her ashes in the ocean at sunset. The waves washed over Severity's ankles and deposited the stones, sparkling stone after first. When Severity reached for it, she saw that the stone was shaped like a heart.

—M.W.

Happy Challah Days!



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LOCAL ARTIST

SO MUCH TO SAY

The year in cheers and jeers from Seven Days commenters

An axiom of modern journalism is, "Never read the comments." Each section often turns into noisy arenas of name-calling and diatribe.

Well, too late at Seven Days as we read the comments, and our contributors generally stay on topic and provide good context, perspective and arguments to stories. They also point out the occasional error — thanks for that!

This year, we logged more than 5,000 comments on the thousands of news stories, mainly reviews, features and other content we create week in, week out. In honor of that, we've rounded up our favorite comments of the year from sevendays.com. Some were sting, interesting or just made us LOL.

None of the original spelling, punctuation or grammar has been corrected here, and most of the authors are identified by user names — not real ones. We've spared you the ongoing online debate about that.

We're taking a break for the holiday — there's no paper on January 4 — but the Seven Days website never sleeps or takes a vacation. So keep the comments coming. Thanks again for weighing in. ☺

Re: "Shambles: Regaling Obscure Would Be a 'Truaster' for Vermont," November 20

If you don't have children, never get sick, and don't grow old — you'll be fine under Trump

Posted by So for Austin December 1

Editor's note: So ... Thank Everlasting!

Re: "DAD, COME!" November 22

This is the best fucking (and that has never existed)

Posted by Hie July November 23

Ed. note: @Hienwibland@Woods

Re: "Break Up, Scott & Company in Waco," November 22

This article is surely satire. Nothing could possibly be this pretentious otherwise.

Posted by Leonard Best, November 26

Ed. note: It's hard out there, fire food server!

Re: "Military Claims Will Vermont," November 6

Because would have won the election

Posted by Kevin L. Gaskett November 6

Ed. note: You had to know this was coming.

Re: "Know Your GMDs: Vermont's Sobbing: Low Taxes Effect," July 1

I'd like to offer you some wine to go with your GMD cheese. The added bonus is you have to eat it in another state.

Posted by MCHP July 1

Ed. note: Just be careful what you're you gonna eat.

Re: "WEE: What Happened to Burlington's Pay Phones?" January 20

There's a pay phone outside the Fletcher Free Library. Saw someone using it yesterday.

Posted by Dr. Mindbender January 27

Ed. note: Guess we found the one person still using a pay phone in 2019

Re: "Who's That Koolhaa Idea in Addison County?" November 9

If he were really legit his middle name would be Aaron

Posted by stalinquips November 14

Ed. note: The King's middle name was Aaron

Re: "First Baptist Church of Burlington"

There is no excitement anywhere like a First Baptist Church chicken pie supper. Come prepared for drinks and laughs.

Posted by Jay Lee October 22

Ed. note: A ringing endorsement.

Re: "14 'Mildly In' Targets Trump," November 3

I bet not ONE of these women is a Wilcox, Ws. Dr. Mc. HEC. If we did, I'd bet those bags for defaming my religion. I reward this and not just a little bit — and shame on you Seven Days for promoting this biased crap.

Posted by JessicaG202, November 6

Ed. note: This one needs no commentary.

Re: "14 Miles From Open Idaho," May 2

I bet not ONE of these women is a Wilcox, Ws. Dr. Mc. HEC. If we did, I'd bet those bags for defaming my religion. I reward this and not just a little bit — and shame on you Seven Days for promoting this biased crap.

Posted by Dr. Mindbender May 6

Ed. note: COLLAPSED. Be more humorous — as, @drmindbender

Re: "Rep. Peter Welch Calls Democrats' 25-Hour Gun Bill 'Very Effective,'" June 23

Sadder headline of 2016, right here.

Posted by Justin Solent June 24

Ed. note: Remember, folks, he wrote this in June.

Re: "Diverse Design:
Sander's Critique"
Missoula's Backstreet, July 28

But, who does Bernie's
dry cleaner endorse?

Posted by Mr. Phila, July 28

Ed. note: About it, you guys loved
reading all things Bernie this year.

Re: "Nonsensical Legislation About
to Churn the System, Are They
Judean?" February 3, 2010

If I were to steal from my employer
because I thought I wasn't being
paid enough I would be charged with
embezzlement, and find 'a partner
that would make me a candidate for
higher office.

Posted by Scott Eklund, October 27

Ed. note: Don't try this at home.

Re: "Sugar High! Raw & Jersey's New Dairy
Fiction Dreams," February 18

Someone is obviously complaining that
the ice cream has almost milk in it? My
gluten free banana brownie page beer is
both dairy free and not free.

Posted by Mark Lutz, February 17

Ed. note: [Blame]! You can't change
pr what you was eat.

Re: "Tremolo
Coffee Shop Pops Up
in Montpelier," July 12

Finally, a hipster coffee shop!

Posted by The Quack, July 12

Ed. note: Get off! There are lots
of hipster coffee shops!

Re: "New Performance:
Venue Planned in Thetford;
Donations Welcome," May 19

I live a block from the
proposed venue. You can
park in my driveway for \$20.

Posted by Seth Eklund, May 19

Ed. note: Reimbursement!

Re: "Zackerman
Apologizes for 2010 Remarks
About Vermont Air Guard," October 25

Zackerman should at least apologize
for this year's farm share. I get like 2
cucumbers the entire summer and I don't
remember getting any peas. Too busy
campaigning I guess.

Posted by Mr. Phila, October 25

Ed. note: What, no mention of David's ponytail?

Re: "Hunting Pox Want to Seem
Savvy on Vermont's Pubs & Wildlife
Board," October 12

Let me look into my crystal
ball: In the future I will have to
get written permissions from
some tree hugging, vegan,
from RU before I can give lead
passing to the cute little
squirrel who's chewing a hole
in the side of my house.

Posted by Paul Jones, October 13

Ed. note: Probably!

Re: "The Guys: How
I Bought an A3-26 in
a Five Guys Parking
Lot," June 15

So we really know for
certain that he bought
this at a private sale?? No
evidence, no sale slip, etc.,
etc. Could be a made up
story to further the liberal
agenda. Wish I'd know
about it, I'd buy it
in a minute.

Posted by Ben Miller,
June 15

Ed. note: This is a strange
conspiracy theory but... OK!

If you really want to
impress us, you should
pick up a TENSICEST at
the Five Guys parking lot
and deliver him to BPD!

Posted by Lawrence Thibault,
June 16

Ed. note: Don't, we'll get right
on it.

So you intentionally
set up a legal gun buy
to make it look easier.
Great job, you are a
attention seeking dipshit.
Look at me, look at me!!
Over here!! Look what I
can do!! Awwh.

And why you want the
gun, you see, June 16

Ed. note: Phil told us he
hasn't been called an
"asshat" since 5th grade.

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Vermont Artists Become Activists, Raising Consciousness and Funds

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES ANY LILLY PAMELA POLSTON KYMELIA SARI & SADIÉ WILLIAMS

For an event with the confrontational name "Wracking Ball: F**k 2016" last Saturday's "colony" of performers at **OFF CENTER FOR THE DISSENT** arts in Burlington was surprisingly low-key. Concerned in Toronto in 2014 and designed to produce "professional calibre theatre that is responsive to world events," the Wracking Ball concept seemed tailor made for progressive Vermont theatre artists. In fact, Canadian film-maker Laura Roult offered the most engaging presentation—namely, a humorous, side-supported argument for why we should all move to Canada (despite its hunky and belated PM Justin Trudeau).

Chances are good that the next four years will offer plenty of opportunities for Wracking Ball to return and for artists of every stripe to protest the art of protest in various fashions. Not to mention the raising of consciousness and funds—Saturday's event benefited the ACLU.

In fact, Vermont artists have already started that activism work, whether in response to the recent presidential election, the Dakota Access Pipeline standoff in North Dakota, police violence against African Americans, the ongoing threats to women's health care access, or other abrogations of human rights at home or abroad. There's a lot to choose from when it comes to causes.

Artists the world-over have long had a role in trying to effect change—indeed some seem particularly energized by an opportunity to fight the power. And as a recent article in *Hypertext* put it, "If we're going to protest continuously for four years, we might as well keep it aesthetically interesting." Another piece in that newsletter schooled readers on how to register the art of making a statement.

Meanwhile, Robert Lyng, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, has declared: "The arts have always been used as a healing force, and we have seen the power of art to affect peoples' thinking."

Other art actions around the U.S. include a "Not My President's Day" initiative on February 20. A coalition of theater artists calling themselves *Bad and Nasty*—remember "bad hairdresser" and "nasty woman" in the Trump lexicon?—is encouraging "radical inclusive, denigrative, provocative, ridiculous, enraged and engaged work" in every state. Another effort that activists are trying to get off the ground—adopting the hashtag #2D—invokes an art world strike on inauguration day. That is, "mass abandonment" from galleries, museums, theaters and other art institutions. "It's not clear what such a move would accomplish."

Closer to home, longtime star artist **DAVID SCHEN** has a better idea. He told Seven Days: "You always had an ear and eye for political theater. These days are reminding me of those days—when we feel that the most dangerous government around is our government." When he heard about Not My President's Day, Schen said he decided to adapt Alfred, Jerry's abandoned play *Una Rosa*, which satirizes greed, power and their attendant evils: "and just get down and dirty."

The updated version, which Schen is writing with Vermont poet **SEAN STONEK**, will be called *Trumpocalypse Now: King Tard Revisited* and will be performed at FlynnSpace in Burlington. Schen added: "There's going to be a lot of political art—I'm kind of excited and rejuvenated by this."

MARLENE LAUREL, artistic director of **WOMANHOOD ACTORS WORKSHOP**, had already been planning a full stage production of *American Patriot*, a play about women's rights activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton for March—women's history month. Since the election, she noted, the play feels "more relevant than ever."

Vermont is home to the grandfather of art's political protest: **HELEN SCHREINER**, founder of **SHOCK AND HORROR THEATRE**. The troupe has not relaxed its vigilance against the powerful and the corrupt for the past half-century, and certainly isn't new. According to *SEVEN DAYS BLAZN*, members of the troupe plan to attend the Women's March on Washington on January 21. And Schreiner, she said, "is now trying to do Immersion Mondays every Sunday afternoon through the winter."

For this last arts column of 2016, we scanned the arts community for issue-specific activities, scheduled for now and in the near future. We divided these efforts into several categories, art-related merchandise, visual messages, performances designed to raise awareness, and benefit shows. What follows is a sampling. We expect more to come.

PURCHASING POWER

Raise Your Fist

ERIKAT NYONG, leader of the local chapter of the national Black Lives Matter movement, along with **SHOLA KUTEN** and **SHANI BODEN**, designed a fierce social-justice rendition of the original Black Panthers raised-fist symbol. To help raise awareness and funds, Burlington's **SHED DOGS STUDIO** and members of the band **DAWS OF HAVES** helped the group print the logo on T-shirts, which are available in the BLM Vermont online store.

In recent weeks, the shop has expanded as a platform for not only BLM women but an array of local artists who are donating a portion of their sales to the cause. Their offerings include a print of a quote from former Black Panther



Artist Shola Kutén, designed by **JAMARA JONES** and printed by **JAMARA KUTEN**, courtesy of **BENEDICT OGWONGHIE** and **JAY MUMFORD**, and custom upcycled sweatshirts from **SHANI BODEN**. blacklivesmattervermont.com

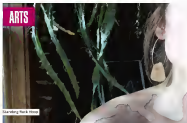
R.E.J.



Ruby Electra, 'Snatch the Patriarchy' T-Shirt

RUBY ELECTRA said that, on election night, she was gripped with the desire to paint slogans on "everything." Instead, the 26-year-old bartender, artist and personal assistant to **BADHO HOPE** owner **LIZ ANDERSON** designed a T-shirt emblazoned with an artfully embellished vigilante and the slogan "Snatch the Patriarchy." Printed by Burlington's **UNCOMMON ARTS**, it's sold in men's and women's sizes through Electra's website for \$25, and she donates 50 percent of the proceeds to Planned Parenthood. snatchthepatriarchy@gmail.com, electraoutsbags.com

ARTS



Standing Rock Hoop

Haley Fenn, Standing Rock Hoop

For the past year or so, **HALEY FENN** has been turning out minimalist, modern jewelry from her Burlington studio **HOLLOW & FENN** (a collaboration with textile artist **KEVIN MANNING**). On Thanksgiving Day, she released a new set of silver earrings with a social message. You can special-order the Standing Rock Hoop with a diamond, ergonomically shaped brass piece for \$70 via email, and Fenn will donate 50 percent of the proceeds to an organization supporting the Standing Rock Water Protectors. www.hollowandfenn.com, www.kevinmanning.com

5 M



VISUAL MESSAGES

Street Graffiti

The term "public art" encompasses any work sited in a public space with permission, because unapproved art such as graffiti is considered illegal. It's often executed rapidly and minimally. Two examples we've noted recently in Burlington are the massive, hastily scrawled blue letters spelling "Save the World" on the Pearl Street side of East West Gate; and the "Make America Nice Again" stenciled in black on the sidewalk by the downtown Site Art. These anonymous contributions to our built environment serve as uplifting reminders of the power to speak one's truth in the face of judgment — whether it comes from local law enforcement or the president-elect.

5 M



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Safety in Numbers

A group of Burlington High School students has designed a symbol to spread the message that Vermont is a welcoming community. The nine teens, members of the school's International Club, created the symbol in two weeks, with the help of teacher **WILLIAM HAYES** and **AMANDA CRISP** from the University of Vermont Children's Hospital. The result is a drawing of a dove in cupped hands. According to a statement from the students,

[The] dove represents peace and also integration because the dove is a bird and often migrates [to] places far from weather to live... The hands show that our community welcomes everyone, protects them and ensures that they are in a safe place.

Next, the students will work with a graphic designer to finalize the symbol. They hope to raise enough money to reproduce it on pins and T-shirts for sale, with proceeds going to local organizations. They also hope local businesses will print the symbol on posters and hang them in their shop windows.

**OUR GOAL THROUGH THIS PROJECT
IS TO HELP THE REFUGEES,
IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS
LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES
WITHOUT FEAR.**

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

"Our goal through this project is to help the refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers live in the United States without fear, and it is also our hope that everyone accepts the symbol for its good cause," wrote the students.

For more info, contact **Susan Blumenthal** at blumenthal@burlingtonschools.org.

Standing With Standing Rock

In late November, **ARTHUR COLLECTIVE** members **BRIAN CLARK** and **SCOTTIE RAYMOND**, along with **ADAM "RING OUT" HINDMAN** of the **THIRD TRUCK ALL STARS**, road-tripped south for Miami Art Week. They made a pit stop to warm up at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and left their mark with a simple "NO DAPLS" [No Dakota Access Pipeline] piece in the school's "Free Expression Tunnel."

Once in Miami, the trio set to work doing out a door at the Concrete Beach Innway with what Raymond called a "water mandala." Initially, the group had proposed a work that showed overt solidarity with Standing Rock — but, as Raymond put it, the brewery powers-that-be "weren't in line with it." So the collective adapted, tuning down the message. Still, at the end of a three-day painting spree, they emblazoned their mural with a ribbon declaring, "Mini Wicent" or "Water is Life" in Lakota — a battle cry of those in opposition to the pipeline.

"We knew by the nature of the political atmosphere there that nobody was going to know what we were talking about," Raymond said. "Most people in Miami didn't seem to have any idea what 'Mini Wicent' is either." artcollective.com

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SEVEN DAYS





Deborah Cady Stanton

ACTING OUT

'American Radical'

In February, Middlebury Actors Workshop staged a reading of local actor Kate Reddy's play *American Radical*, a biographical drama about 19th-century suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In March, new artistic director Melissa Lorne, the group will mount a full production of the show. "After the election," she added, "I thought it was more important and relevant than ever."

Details to come at middleburyactors.org

5 W



Stacy (from left), Hannah, Alexander, Chris, and Josh. Photo: Middlebury Actors Workshop

'History Retweets Itself'

Burlington sketch comedy troupe **STEALING FROM HOME** comically packs a feminist punch in its pee-poo-pants funny show. Its next show, in February, might have a little extra edge. "We started writing 10 months ago," said **MARIANNE DUMAS**, a primary creator of the group's material with **AMBERLEIGH**. "But the stuff we touched upon recently has to do with race and privilege and what people not doing enough to contribute to the dialogue about racism." Like similar theater artists, "We think about how to use satire to move people to think," Dumason added. The president-elect's obsession with Twitter presumably inspired the title of **SHFV**'s latest show "History Retweets Itself" February 1 to 5, seven times, at Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington. \$15. facebook.com/stealingfromhome

PP

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STATEofTHEarts



Public Panic Attack

In late October, local activist group **WITCHES AGAINST TRUMP** rallied a group of like-minded women for the theatrical *Witches Against Trump* demonstration. Now, post-demonstration, the group will join the All Affected Coalition ("pronounced asccccccccccccccc") according to its Facebook page) to stage a "Public Panic Attack" — as in one used panic attack.

Group member and Middlebury College associate professor **LARUE BROWN** told *Seven Days*, "So often when women have responded to the bludge of masculinist governments or societies, they've been maligned as hysterical, crazy [and] panicked." We thought that being panicked at this moment was the correct response." Referencing historical usings of acceptable femininity and hysteria, the group will off on the 1690s housewife by donning purple dishwashing gloves, and it encourages other attendees to do the same.

Public Panic Attack, January 19, 9:30 p.m., at the top of Church Street in Burlington. Facebook.com/allaffectedcoalition

REJ

"Trumpuboo Roi"

French playwright Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi* so outraged Parisian audiences that its first production opened and closed in one day — in 1896. More than 120 years later, little has the power to shock onstage, yet the work remains at least amusing. Perhaps that's because an absurdist play about power and greed is still so damned relevant — much like *Macbeth*. This update of Jarry is also dandy funny. Burlington actor David Schein and writer Seth Steinour use "totally changing the text" and graduating it in conjunction with the national movement Not My President's Day. And Schein, "I'm just writing new text to fit the new circumstances."

Trumpuboo Roi, February 20, 7:30 p.m., at PaperSpace in Burlington. Rpsnet.org

REJ



James Baldwin (center) in *I Am Not Your Negro* by Raoul Peck

I Am Not Your Negro

Filmmaker Raoul Peck has created a documentary that bills itself as "the book James Baldwin never finished," according to the website of the **VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION**. *Baldwin died before completing *Remember This House*, which addressed the lives and assassinations of Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. According to programmer STEWART, recent events and concerns inspired the organization to book the film before its general theatrical release. (Watch for info, too, about VTIFF's Global Roots 2017. Food & Movie Film Festival in February. "Several of the films will be political," Jarvis noted.)*

I Am Not Your Negro, January 26, 7 p.m., at Main Street Landing Film House in Burlington. \$5-8, vff.org

RR

BENEFIT PERFORMANCES

The best activist art demonstrably changes people's lives. That's exactly what the **GREEN MOUNTAIN HANDEL FESTIVAL's** seventh annual holiday performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 aims to do. Ticket sales for the concert — December 30 at Stone and January 1 in Colchester — will go to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program to help New Americans.

This is the first time the community orchestra has chosen a repeat beneficiary. In the past, the event has given an average of \$5,000 to community organizations ranging from the Vermont Family Network to the Visiting Nurses Association, according to GMMF's founder **BARBARA WEISS**. Last year's concert raised \$7,000 for the VRRP.

"In the current political climate, it seemed a good idea to continue with that," said guest conductor **EMIL BRUCE**.

Given the current attitudes toward immigrants, Weiss added, "we want as a community to support this, and this is one way of doing that."

Last year's donation from GMMF made a definite impact. Said VRRP director **ANNE HESCHENDORF**, "We were able to get winter coats for all families arriving during the winter months, both adults and children." Donated coats are never enough, she explained, adding, "We were able to get nice coats, pots and pans, knives and picture dictionaries."

In addition to helping the broader community, the GMMF's Beethoven's 8th tradition also creates one. Many musicians are former Vermonters or college students studying family for the holidays, and the chorus comes from all over the state, said Weiss, who is a bass player.

Then there is the music: Beethoven's last symphony, which turns poet Friedrich Schiller's "Ode to Joy" into a choral declaration, is a powerful and moving tribute to brotherhood. "It's an anthem of freedom and hope and joy," said Bruce. "We're everyone to appreciate about the future. I see this performance as giving hope."

Green Mountain Handel Festival: Performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 8, Friday December 30, 7:30 p.m., at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe; and benefit concert for VRRP on Sunday January 1, 3 p.m., at Elm-Lang Music Center in Colchester. \$30-45, stowehaven.org

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ON SALE & COMING SOON

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Dear Cecil,

I keep hearing about the bright future of gene editing, specifically involving something called CRISPR. I've seen claims that it could cure cancer and most genetic diseases, maybe even prolong life to infinity and beyond. Is this kooky futurist crap, or maybe something that'll be too expensive for mass distribution?

Julia



The experts predicting cancer cures are the relatively sober, academic ones, Julia — we're got CRISPR teams lining the sci-fi dream, storing preserved mammoth genes into elephant cells. The CRISPR-Cas9 editing process still looks like the revolutionary development it's been touted as over the last four years, and research hangs along at a remarkable pace. Still, some of the more dramatic projections surely won't pan out, and those that do will have to overcome all kinds of stumbling blocks — biological, ethical, legal, ecological and, yes, financial.

Let's catch everyone up on what we're talking about. The immune systems of certain bacteria use DNA sequences called CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats), containing genetic material collected from viruses the bacteria have been exposed to. When one of these viruses attacks again, the matching CRISPR sequence

gets copied to an RNA molecule (remember from bio class? Like DNA, but just one strand?) that tracks down and binds to the virus's own DNA, allowing a specialized enzyme called a Cas (CRISPR-associated) protein to cut the DNA and disable the virus.

So in CRISPR-Cas9 editing, researchers create guide RNA sequences that match parts of whatever gene they want to edit, and use them to essentially program Cas enzymes to go make cuts at the desired spots, adding or removing DNA as needed. This turns out to be easier, cheaper, more precise and more flexible than previous gene-editing methods, and since late 2012 scientists everywhere have been putting CRISPR to ambitious use. Researchers in Pennsylvania used it to cure hemophilia in mice, with major implications for other genetic diseases. At UC Davis, they're getting ready to create an edited pig that will grow a (presumably transplantable) human pancreas inside it.

Just two months ago, on the first such test on an actual person, Chinese scientists introduced CRISPR-edited immune-response cells into a lung cancer patient.

As one might guess with such a persuasive and powerful new methodology, critics have raised concerns about the safety of performing CRISPR editing on human genes. Chief among chief risks is what's called off-target effects, in which the guide RNA gets confused by multiple similar DNA strings and the wrong gene gets edited, even when the enzyme finds and cuts the correct DNA; it can still cut off and swap some other segment too. The resulting potential for cellular mayhem is serious. A mistargeted edit could activate (e.g.) a gene causing cancer. Efforts to identify and minimize off-target trouble spots are complicated by the fact that each person's genome is different and may contain more repeated segments than is typical.

The field of embryonic gene editing is both more promising and more ethically troubling. We may soon be able to correct genetic problems or add immunities in utero, but such potential tinkering raises personal fears of creating designer babies, customized for attractiveness or intelligence. CRISPR-edited genes may also head out into the ecosystem. Scientists anticipate being able to quickly wipe out pest species (mosquitoes being the classic) using something called a gene drive, which would cause a sterility mutation to spread through the population much more quickly than ordinary heredity could manage.

The low cost of CRISPR research democratizes the research process but thereby increases the likelihood of error by a careless team, and it's not like there's much regulation to keep mavericks in line. There are more restrictions on the embryo modification front. Some countries have it outright, as permit it only for research; others have spelled-out but unenforceable guidelines. A year ago, scientific bodies in the U.S., the UK, and China called for a moratorium on making heritable changes to human DNA. Since then, though, Swedish and British biologists have begun CRISPR-based research on healthy human embryos,

the understanding is that these won't be brought to term, but given such obvious potential for clinical benefit this may be a tough door to keep closed.

With scientists predicting that competition between China and the U.S. for CRISPR supremacy will become the fiercest scientific rivalry since the space race, it's unlikely that either government will want to set up too many regulatory hoops for scientists to leap through. On the other hand, there's existing intellectual property law. Whoever holds billions of dollars are at stake, lawsuits proliferate — competing researchers are now battling over CRISPR-related patent claims in U.S. federal court, and they won't be the last.

And though the research itself may be cheap, any modifying medical treatment likely won't be. In recent REC filings, two CRISPR research firms stated that their investors' profits will hinge on the availability of insurance coverage for their still-developing procedures. That's no hypothetical concern — insurers have been reluctant to cover medical procedures tailored to individual patients. The biggest obstacle to the life-altering breakthroughs that CRISPR may yield could well be our klutzy health-care system. Those designer babies aren't gonna pay for themselves.

INFO

Is there something you need to get straight? Cecil Adams can deliver: the Straight Dope on any topic. Send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 335 N. Dearborn Chicago, IL 60610.

Eva Solberger's

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FROM THE ARCHIVE!



December 26 to January 1 is Nordic Days in Vermont! That's when our African-American visitors, in 2013, Eva Solberger filmed a Western celebration at the Snowmass Inn in South Burlington.

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Death of a Malibu

Mental traffic was a horror show. In my taxi's front seat sat Leslie Rochester, the customer I had picked up in Store. Leslie was set to fly from Trudeau International Airport to Zurich to spend the holidays with her daughter's family in Switzerland. She was an extrovert and readily shared bits of her life.

Store is home to some of the state's wealthiest homeowners, or often second-homeowners, so Leslie's autobiography was a window for me into how the other half lives (Well, more percent than half.)

Traversing Port Champlain (the Champlain Bridge, in English) as a personal nightmare. And I don't mean this (on ly) metaphorically: I literally have had nightmares about this stretching gateway into Montreal. After decades of delayed maintenance, the province finally hit the hammer and undertook construction of a replacement bridge with a scheduled opening in two years. Until then, the nightmare continues with a backdrop of repairs and lane closures.

Oh, did I mention that it was snowing and rash hour? I nearly asked Leslie to stop screaming so I could better focus on the road, but I found her voice soothing and helpful in my concentration.

Thinking ahead, we had built in plenty of extra time, so, despite the conditions, we arrived at Trudeau mere than two hours before her scheduled departure. Where? The ride back to Burlington was exact; as the snow had let up and it was now just rash hour still, I let out a sigh of relief when I crossed the border back into America. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain...

Here's the thing about my taxi, a 2010 Chevy Malibu. It has not served me well. I can't reconstruct the thought process that led to my purchasing it a couple of years ago. It was small, underpowered and tiny. My regular customers put up with it because, well, they like me and they count on my dependable service. In my event, the vehicle was at \$15,000 sales, and I planned to go another year before putting it out to pasture. But then there was what I call the "shudder."

For months, the transmission would shudder when ascending hills at high-

installing a new transmission, the repair would cost \$4,000. I absorbed the news stoically, telling the specialist I'd think about it and let him know shortly.

Nudging up, I gave silent thanks to my guardian angels. I had safely completed a Montreal round trip with a transmission issue, it turned out, on its very last legs. I could easily have broken down, perhaps on Rue Champlain — my nightmare scenario! Dodging that bullet could be a lucky coincidence, but I believe a benign force is watching out for me.

Regarding the repair, there wasn't much to think about. To spend that much on this vehicle would epitomize throwing good money after bad. I called Shaver's luck and told them it was a no-go. I would feel sorely by the car and tow it off the lot within a couple of days. Later that day I showed up to

On the other hand, driving seldom has limited me to four passengers (or five, if they really like each other). Many times I've turned down work because of the seating limitations. Likewise, I've had to decline certain airport runs owing to the limited trunk space.

For years, a trusted colleague has encouraged me to make the move to a minivan. "I've tried 'em all," she told me. "The best by far is the Toyota Sienna."

Some quick internet research confirmed her assertion. I showed up at a leasing Toyota the next day and looked up with Phil, a genuinely lovely guy who put the lie to the "too salesmen" stereotype. And Phil had just what the doctor ordered: a red 2013 Sienna, with only 17,000 miles. I took it out for a spin.

It was like upgrading the startup Enterprise — everything digital, controls and features up the wazoo. None of that particularly appealed to me, but what did was the smooth, solid ride. And the roominess. With three rows of seats, I could accommodate up to seven passengers. Plus, the hatchback lifted to reveal enough luggage space to move the Kardashians.

Buying the vehicle was a financial stretch for me. I would have to finance a good chunk of the purchase price. But it was time to make that move, and I pulled the trigger forty-eight hours after the death of the Malibu, I was back on the road.

My regular customers love, love, love the new wheels, so that's gratifying. And, truth be told, I've grown too old for zipping. ☺

All these stories are true, though names and locations may be altered to protect privacy.

INFO

Hackie is a twice-monthly column that can be found at www.vermontjournal.com. To reach Jerrogan, email hackie@vermontjournal.com.

IT WAS TIME TO MAKE THIS MOVE. AND I PULLED THE TRIGGER.

way speeds I'm far from a mechanic, but I can read the signs my car is sending, and I knew this was not good.

I had scheduled a look-see at Shaver's Chevrolet to follow my return from Montreal. So I dropped my taxi off, placed the key in the overnight lay box and rendezvoused with my brother for the ride home.

I nervously didn't activate my phone until 30 or 45 a.m., but the following morning I switched it on early to take the call from Shaver with the diagnosis. When the call came, it was the worst possible news. The transmission specialist, I was told, had taken the car on a test drive to try to replicate the symptoms. I had described On Van Sticks Road in Wilton, the transmission died.

"It reactivated" was how he put it, which sounded like something the Special Forces would do to terrorist targets. Including the substantial labor of

remove the tool meter, test light and all the other stuff from the car's various nooks and crannies. Bye-bye, Malibu.

Now I was in a bind. The economics were stark. No tow equals no income. Manually, the maximum from one tow to the next is a well-choreographed pas de deux a few months. This time, I would need to sit within days, particularly since I was booked with Christmas travelers and partypoppers over the upcoming weeks. I had to decide, and immediately, what type of vehicle to search for and get on with it.

The two vehicle of choice for Burlington cab owners — the "standard" as it were — is the minivan. This is because most of us do a lot of airport work, which necessitates room for multiple passengers, often with substantial luggage. I have, until now, resisted the minivan. I thrive on zipping around town, and there's no zipping in a minivan.



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THE THINGS I DO INSTEAD OF WORKING ON MY THESIS

by Robyn Smith

1. eat too much cereal



2. Wish I lived elsewhere



3. Cry while watching Zootopia



4. try to sleep



5. Cry while watching inside out



6. Save pics of celebs I want to be like



7. Cry cuz I'm not working on my thesis



8. Sing along to High School Musical 2 soundtrack



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ROBYN SMITH

is a second-year student at the Center for Cartoon Studies who

just saw Ragna die. A star this story and loved it all.



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Life Stories

Remembering Vermonters who died in 2016

Pat Whitley-Bailey was the kind of fearless and charismatic person who could win over an audience. *Down Days* creative director Dan Eggett remembers gatherings in the late 1990s where the vibrant LGBT and activism activist would warm up the crowd. "She loosened people up and invited them to participate," he recalled.

She might break the audience into sections and assign each group a song to make or words to say. Eggett

remembers an LGBT event at the First Unitarian Universalist Society at the top of Church Street where Whitley-Bailey, a lesbian, animated one group to say "hell diggers," clomping the U in hell. Another group was assigned the term "big old queen."

Whitley-Bailey played conductor, giving the audience their cues. Topics that might have been used as insults were transformed into a kind of music. "Each of the rhythm kind of came together to make a spoken-word song," Eggett explained. "We

said, 'Look what happens when all of our voices come together. Isn't it beautiful?'"

Whitley-Bailey died on August 21, 2016. She's one of eight individuals we chose for our annual end-of-year feature on Vermonters who died during the past year. Others include a doctor who helped reform Vermont's health care delivery system, a drummer who gave his final performance a few weeks before his death, a renowned potter who worked in an isolated Northeast Kingdom town

and a controversial judge who grew up on a dairy farm and met her husband at a square dance.

None of these individuals is famous — like Prince or David Bowie or any of the other celebrities who departed in 2016 — but each Vermontor led a life that was remarkable in its own way. Together, their profiles reveal the wide and wonderful variety of people who, by birth or by choice, have made this state their home. It's quite a chorus.

CATHY RESMER

"Can you imagine what he saw over his lifetime?"

Leo Abair, February 16, 1918-June 21, 2016

As Lake Champlain swelled to historic levels in the spring of 2016, 97-year-old Leo Abair sprang into action. The decorated military man directed family members, friends and neighbors as they built a buffer to save his lakeside home from rapidly rising floodwaters and whipping winds.

"Over the commander, the Colonel stood at his post in the sunroom and oversees the operation for three weeks until the water finally subsided," recalled daughter Marlene Abair Goss.

The Colchester property was a dream home, nicknamed "Broadside," that Leo bought with his late wife, Mary. They'd wanted a place to gather with their nine children — a clan that has grown to include 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Leo, a quiet, successful patriarch of the "greatest generation," who lived through the Great Depression and World War II, died at Broadside this summer at the age of 98.

He was the youngest of eight, born in Wisconsin in more modest circumstances at the family home on Wesner Lane, which was back then a dirt road behind the Wisconsin Block building. His parents' first vehicle was a horse and buggy.

"My father provided us with food, he raised a garden, chickens and cows," Leo recalled in a 2012 interview with his grandson, Matt Kitchman, for a school report. "That was our food for the year. My mother would be all of the vegetables we didn't use, and that would be our supply for the winter. Milk was such a commodity back then that we didn't drink it ourselves, we sold it to the neighbors."

Leo met Mary Elizabeth Lofley in 1935 and, according to family legend, told a friend, "That's the girl I'm going to marry?" They wed in 1942, before he left home to serve in the Army Air Corps.



Leo had gotten his pilot's license as a civilian. The army recruited him to fly small, unarmed single-engine planes — known as "L-birds" — behind enemy lines in the Philippines to help direct artillery fire. His wartime heroics earned him a Silver Star for valor; he also



received an Air Medal for meritorious service for his actions under fire during the Battle of Manila.

Like many of his generation, Leo didn't talk much about the war after returning from overseas. But he transitioned his flying skills into a career with the Vermont Army National Guard, becoming the outfit's first pilot. He stayed on flight status to earn an extra paycheck and, over the years, served as state emergency officer before rising to chief of staff to the adjutant general. He retired in 1977 with the rank of colonel. Leo later helped found the Vermont State Guard, an all-volunteer organization that assists the National Guard. He retired from that as a major general in 2000.

Bill Kough, who was a member of Leo's Vermont National Guard unit, remembers his boss as a leader and a good delegator. "He was easy to work with," said Kough, 86. "He didn't tell you how to do something or how not to do something — he just said do it."

Leo oversaw a burgeoning bread or home. "Everybody knew he was a big-deal military man," said

"She was always very feisty and fiery."

Paj Wadley-Bailey, January 7, 1939-August 18, 2016



The night Barack Obama was elected president, Paj Wadley-Bailey got down on her knees in front of the television set and exclaimed, "We did it! I can't believe we did it. This is history right here!"

She was watching the return that night at the home of friends in Worcester. One of them, Sara Baker, recalled the occasion in an email.

Paj was a black lesbian who dedicated her life to social and political activism and welcomed a wide range of people into her sphere. The election of Obama was, for her, a significant milestone and a joyful occasion, according to Baker, a teacher in Montrose.

"Paj wanted the world to celebrate diversity," Baker wrote. "Really celebrate it — not just tolerate it."

Paj ended her life on August 18 at the age of 77 — succumbing to a "poison" to use her word, in her Montpelier home. She obtained it using Vermont's "death with dignity" law, which allows a person who is terminally ill to hasten death. Complications from diabetes had forced her to undergo daily dialysis treatment, which she did for about a year. After stopping treatment, she lived for two more months before deciding it was time to die. Paj donated her body to medical science, and asked Baker to accompany her remains from Montpelier to the University of Vermont Robert Larner College of Medicine in Burlington.

"She was a woman who believed that our lives are self-directed," said her daughter, Denise Bailey, a lawyer who lives in Montpelier. "We fight for our rights. We support the people we love. She planned her death to include as many people who loved her as possible."

Paj was born Patricia Anne Wadley on January 7, 1939, in New Haven, Conn. She grew up as that city's one of six siblings in a family of activists. Her father worked in a factory, her mother raised the kids and cleaned houses. The Baptist church was a central feature of the family's life.

Paj married as a young woman and had four children of her own before separating from her husband, Richard Bailey.

In the mid-1970s, she moved to central Vermont to study social ecology at Goddard College. Paj found her niche and impact, said Denise, her oldest child. In Vermont, she came out as a lesbian, recognizing an identity she always knew was hers, she told her daughter. Coming out was a matter of finding an "affirming community."

Not everyone was supportive. "Her life was not easy, because of discrimination against people of color and against lesbians," Denise said. "My mother was very outspoken, so the called racism out whenever it occurred. She got a reputation for that."

Not in a rank, predominantly white state, Paj taught and befriended scores of people through the life she made as a teacher, community organizer, singer, board member and activist. A 20-minute walk through Montpelier could take 90 minutes if you were walking with her mother, her daughter recalled. Everyone would stop and talk to her.

"She was one of the most fun people I know," said Denise. "She was always very feisty and fiery. We had an idea, she could organize something in half an hour."

Paj's work encompassed a range of issues and organizations. She cofounded the Vermont's Anti-Racism Action Team and its Reading to End Racism program, she was the first coordinator of the LGBTQ+ Center at the University of Vermont, she was a board member of the Peace & Justice Center in Burlington and Vermont Access to Reproductive Freedom, she did antiracist trainings with the RUUP Community Center (the precursor to Pride Center of Vermont), and she was active with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Kegan Grasses.

Paj's activism is best understood as a whole and cohesive endeavor, suggested Rachel Siegel, executive director of the Peace & Justice Center. "These groups don't seem disparate to me, including all the work she did around queer rights. It's all connected in that it's anti-oppression work."

In classrooms and workshops, Paj was adept at facilitating discussions centered on issues that can be particularly challenging to address, said David Shuman, emerita professor of education at UVM.

"Paj could engage and challenge people around racism issues in a way that would draw people in, rather than push them away," he said.

About a dozen years ago, Paj helped organize an event that honored Juneteenth and Stonewall. The dual celebration marked the 150th commemoration of the end of slavery and the 1969 Greenwich Village uprising that helped galvanize the gay rights movement. The event featured a big soul-food dinner in Burlington City Hall Auditorium.

"We wanted to make sure people understood that people of color had been standing with queer people for generations, and that it's important for queer people to also stand with people of color," said Christopher Kaufman, Harnapp, a philanthropic advisor at the Vermont Community Foundation and former director of RUUP.

"She was an amazing teacher for a generation of young activists," he said.

Last summer, Paj planned one final event — a celebration of her life that took place outside her apartment building the day before she died.

The last song to play was Fern Lafelle's singing "Over the Rainbow." Wadley-Bailey danced to the song in the garden. Then she danced her way inside and upstairs to home.

SALLY PELLAK

LEWIS STORIES/IN PHOTOS

son Allen. "But at home, he was just Dad, running hard on nine kids."

A lifelong piano player, Leo instilled a love of music in his children, several of whom pursued musical careers. Singer and songwriter Phil Allen, the youngest, plays keyboard and bass guitar. He's the leader of his own band and has appeared onstage with members of Phish. He said both he and his father performed around the northeast Triad region. Leo was a teen when the ship cruised Lake Champlain, and Phil decides later for a wedding at the Shelburne Museum, where the boat now resides on land.

Leo and Mary moved to their Colchester home in 1975, then spent winters in Florida after Leo retired. Roadside became the family's place for summertime fun, holidays, birthdays and all sorts of outdoor events — including, of course, beachside concerts.

"It was the gathering place — every Sunday, pretty much," said Allen. "We'd all end up out there and end up around the piano, usually, before the day was done."

Mary, described by daughter Marilee as Leo's "congenial and devoted friend for 78 years," died in 2004. "They were high school sweethearts," said granddaughter Molly Allen. "It was a lifelong love affair."

As a widower, Leo played golf, visited Florida, filled out crossword puzzles, and hosted family and friends. Leo, an early adopter of new technology, he used Skype, Facebook and games such as Words With Friends to stay in touch with faraway loved ones.

"It was truly amazing to see him stay up to speed on all that changing technology," said Molly. "Can you imagine what he was over his lifetime?"

Before his death, Leo arranged for his family to retain ownership of his lakeside home so they can continue to gather there. His greatest legacy, Leo's son agree, was the close-knit family he left behind.

"Papa and Grammy are profoundly missed, but the fond memories they left us outnumber the grains of sand on Roadside beach," Molly said. "The truth is, we are all better people for having them in our lives."

SARAH SOLOSTEIN

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY

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ART BY JEFFREY

LEWIS STORIES/IN PHOTOS

"He could talk about anything, from politics to how your coat was made."

Jordan Smith, June 5, 1984-March 4, 2016

Lansdale Ambulance Service EMTs Matt Lucker and Jordan Smith were partnered on a busy 24-hour shift. The phones were off the hook with unusual calls — fights and drinks and psychotic meltdowns. En route to an incident, Lucker looked out the window, wondering why the night had gone mad. A huge moon lit up the sky. "Oh, it's a full moon," he said, turning to Jordan. "Must be why people are acting so crazy."

"Nope," Jordan said, grinning. "It's not a full moon."

Lucker pointed to the sky. "Not full," Jordan repeated. "It's a waning gibbous."

Lucker assumed Jordan was hallucinating. They argued for 20 minutes until Lucker's iPhone confirmed that it was, in fact, a waning gibbous.

Jordan just nodded, with a told-you-so grin.

That's when Lucker realized something all who knew Jordan learned early on: You don't win arguments with Jordan Smith. When the Croton native took an interest in something — astronomy, sure-boned chickens, raising goats — he studied it with fervor. Even on topics he knew little about, he'd talk anyone under the table.

"Everything that guy ever told me sounded true," recalls Scott "Stumpy" Lavetta, who worked with Smith at the Croton Volunteer Fire Department — one of several fire-and-rescue units Jordan was part of over the years. "He could talk about anything, from politics to how your coat was made."

Lavetta was part of the search party that looked for Jordan on March 4, after he went out for a late-afternoon snowmobile romp and didn't return. Lavetta and fellow firefighters Philip Palmer — who had known Jordan his whole life — followed snowmobile tracks to a hole in the ice on Baker Pond, where the 26-year-old had released his final breath.

It was a sudden and tragic end to a life that friends, family and colleagues describe as "out of the box" and "not fitting the mold."

Even before Jordan was born, Brent and Pam Smith sensed that their fourth and youngest son would be different. "There was something about him," Brent said, speaking with Seven Days earlier this month. "I think you had the



same feeling," he added, looking across the table at his wife.

Pam nodded. Jordan grew from a precocious chatterbox child into an impertunate teen, well-known to school and local authorities. His parents thought, maybe "different" means he'll end up in jail.

Jordan never wound up behind bars — he had run-ins with the law but managed to talk himself out of some 35 speeding tickets.

And if he was happy to contradict anyone, Jordan did so with disarming spirit and a raucous, unforgivable laugh. "Jordan could work with anybody," recalled Dorothy Knott, a member of the Croton-Eggsbury volunteer FAST (Fast Aid

Stabilization Team) Squad ambulance service, which Jordan was leading at the time of his death.

Indeed, Jordan worked with lots of people in his various professional stints as a cook, car salesman and electrician. Emergency services were one constant in his life — family was another.

As a creative jack-of-all-trades, Jordan could have built a life anywhere. But he chose to live a mile from his parents and across the road from his brother, Aaron Smith. When he met Sara Bassel in 2002, he committed instantly and frantically. The couple married in 2005 and remained together through several horses and dozens of hobbies and jobs

In September 2015, Jordan parlayed his experience as a journeyman electrician into a teaching job at River Bend Career & Technical Center in Bradford. "When he got [that] position, he'd found his home," his father recalled. "He'd found exactly what he wanted to do for the rest of his life."

Jordan's good-hearted empathy for all made him a great mentor. It also helped him recruit new members for the FAST Squad. He knew that recruiting youth was vital to ensure effective emergency services in his aging community.

At River Bend, 17-year-old Lillian Colby recalled meeting Jordan on a break between classes. "I was getting a soda from the vending machine," she said, "and I see this guy coming down toward me." Who is this person? she thought.

Before she could ask, Jordan introduced himself. "I'm on the FAST Squad," he said. He'd heard she wanted to join but was intimidated by the group's older, longtime members. "Don't worry," he said. "We'll protect you."

A few days later, Colby asked for an application. Two-and-a-half years, and she's one of the squad's most dedicated volunteers.

At Lansdale Ambulance, Lucker credits Jordan with his career. "He's probably the reason I'm with an EMT," Lucker said. He recalled filling behind an EMTs spot on a busy shift. Afterwards, Jordan spent hours guiding him through the reports, clearing the process with a mantra: "His big thing was KISS — 'Keep It Simple, Stupid.'"

Jordan's friends and colleagues continue to look to him for advice — on Croton and beyond, cars bearing "What would Jerry do?" bumper stickers attesting to his unflappable approach to work and life. Now, when faced with a tough situation, Lucker asks himself that question.

The answer is always the same: "He'll handle it with a smile on his face and a positive attitude," Lucker said. "And then it's like, OK, let's give that a shot."

JORDY COULD WORK WITH ANYBODY.
DOROTHY KNOTT

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10

"She had a working childhood, but she was always a kid at heart."

Katholyn Covey Boyd, April 16, 1916–August 28, 2016

Katholyn "Kay" Boyd spent all 100 of her years in Vermont. Her life story illustrates many of the changes that have taken place over the last century as the state has shifted from a place filled with co-existence schoolhouses and small-scale dairy farms to a landscape dotted with ski resorts and navigated by Tropical Storm Irene.

The youngest of 10 children, Kay grew up on her family's dairy farm in West Brattleboro. Her education stopped after the eighth grade. She met her husband, Vernon Boyd, at a local square dance and moved with him to his family's farm in Wilmington, two towns over. The couple raised two children, Carl and Aida.

"We were basically a subsistence farm," Carl explained. "They lived with what they had. They didn't owe anybody any money. All the bills were paid, we had a place to live and plenty to eat."

Rheumatoid arthritis, also known as "farmer's lung," limited Vern's physical most of his life, so Kay picked up the



slack. She milked cows, cut hay, drove tractors, loaded hay bales, and bottled sap for syrup to sell.

"It was a tough life and required a lot of effort on her part," recalled Carl.

"But she was always there. I never heard her complain."

In fact, Kay retained a whimsical, mischievous spirit — her obituary described her as "an inimitable prankster."

"She had a working childhood," said Carl, "but she was always a kid at heart."

Kay loved dressing up for Halloween, he noted, assembling outfits from the trove of clothes and items collected in their old farmhouse. For reasons no one entirely understood, she would sometimes bust out her costume again on Thanksgiving.

And the enjoyment of turning her young nieces and nephews when they visited. At night, they were always a little

nervous about setting out on the barely illuminated walkway to the Boyle's outdoor — when they had to go, Kay would scurry into the attic, open a window, drop a basket behind them and laugh when they ran away terrified.

When kids gathered in the yard in the summer to play hide-and-seek, a sole front porch light illuminating the rural blackness, they could always count on Kay to meet the fray.

And though some farmers, desensitized by owning livestock, have little interest in household pets, Kay doted on a menagerie of cats and dogs. Among her favorites was a jinkingly called Masey — that had six or seven toes on each of its front paws.

Masey was always tight, but the Boyle's made sure their son had a car when he was a teenager so he was able to go to college.

The death knell sounded for the Boyle's dairy farm in the 1960s, when

"He was like a village leader."

Osman Balle Ibrahim, January 1, 1949–October 3, 2016

This fall, while attending a wedding in agitate New York, Osman Balle Ibrahim fell ill. His illness was the 60-year-old Somali Bantu elder — known among his community in Osman Balle — was rushed to the hospital when he returned to Burlington on October 2. He died early the next day, leaving behind his wife, Halima Yerrero, and five children.

No obituary appeared in the newspapers, but, as news of his death spread through the Somali Bantu community in the U.S., approximately a thousand mourners offered their condolences. Some traveled to Vermont from across the country to pay their respects. For about a week, his family and neighbors in Burlington's OM North End put up visitors from as far away as Atlanta and Texas.

Most of these out-of-state visitors had known the Bantu leader since they were refugees in Kenya. Osman's teenage son, Abdiwale, doesn't remember much from that time. The Burlington High School senior was only 6 years old when his family resided in Vermont in 2004. He's heard about those years, though, and calls his father "a great man" and "a leader."

Rhadas Osman, an older relative, remembers more of his legacy. "He used to help people come to America," she explained through an interpreter.

Osman Balle was born in Somalia's Middle Juba state. A high school graduate, he worked for the department of agriculture. When civil war broke out in 1990, the Bantu, an ethnic minority who had long

faced discrimination and marginalization, bore the brunt of the violence. Osman was among those who fled to the Dugshaley refugee camp in the Kenyan town of Dedera.

Dugshaley was divided into blocks, with some 500 people living in each one. Osman was one of several block leaders. He attended meetings, distributed food and goods, and solved disputes.

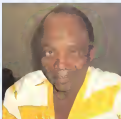
"He was like a village leader," said Mohamed Abdi, former executive director of the Somali Bantu Community Association of Vermont.

The people in charge of the blocks were usually chosen based on one of three criteria: level of education, ability to speak English and leadership skills, Abdi said. Osman spoke little English, but he knew how to lead and held the position for a decade.

"I grew up under his leadership," Abdi noted.

David Van Lehnau, who was a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees field officer in the Dugshaley camp between 1992 and 1994, and discrimination against the Bantu by the Somali clan continued in Kenya. As a block leader advocating for Somali Bantu human rights and protection, Osman would likely have been threatened or subjected to intimidation, he noted.

"Many Bantu just kept their heads down and just got by in the camps," he wrote in an email. "Bantu representatives like Osman needed courage to carry out their work."



Despite the harsh living conditions at the camp, Osman demonstrated his entrepreneurial skills and thrived. He ran a small restaurant where people could drink tea and eat masees. His nephew, Noor Balle, said Osman was generous with his customers and never demanded payment. Osman later opened a convenience store in the camp that sold candies, sugar and tea.

His most pivotal role was helping Somali Bantu to be considered for resettlement to the U.S., a process that started in 2009. Osman was the conduit between the camp leadership, the UNHCR and international agencies, and his community.

milk processors no longer wanted to receive milk in 40-gallon cans. They began to insist that farmers install large tanks in their barns to hold milk until a truck could come and pick it up. The new tanks were pricey and needed to be cleaned with gallons of hot water. But back then the locals didn't even have hot water for their homes.

So they sold their 50 cattle and, along with their closest neighbors half a mile away, went into an entirely different business. They built and ran the North Star bowling alley, providing a venue for weekend gatherings and birthday parties in an area that had relatively few social options.

With her husband's health failing — Verne died in 1977 — they sold their stake in the bowling alley. She supported herself by picking up work at shops in Wilmington and Bennington and lodges at Mount Snow resort in West Dover.

Kay continued to show up at local square dances into her mid-seventies.

The elder conveyed accurate information about the process to his people. He made sure they got to their interviews on time and were notified of the results. He encouraged families to learn conversational English and attend orientation classes. For those who failed their interviews, he fought for them to be given a chance to reapply. Aish recalled.

The Small cell tried to belch Osman, said Nour. They wanted him to allow them to falsify their Somali Bantu identity so that they could be considered for resettlement. But he said his uncle held his ground.

Osman used to tell them, "No, this is for any people. This is an opportunity for any people. I don't need your money."

He continued to be an advocate for his people after he moved to the Green Mountain State. In addition to working at IBM, Vermont Teddy Bear and, later, Walmart, Osman attended meetings with police chiefs and other community leaders to discuss the social challenges that the Bantus face.

And she played in candlepin bowling leagues into her nineties, rolling the two-pinned, palm-size ball with a trademark style.

"She rolled a real slow ball, but she was very accurate," said North Star Bantus current owner, Steve Butler. "She was very, very good."

In late summer 2013, Tropical Storm Irene flooded the bowling alley. At first, Butler was unsure if he would ever reopen. When he finally did, in 2014, there was only one person left wanted to roll the candlepin first ball.

Kay was by then confined to a wheelchair, but she didn't hesitate to accept the invitation. With an onlooker capturing the moments on video, she crept toward the lane, leaned as far forward in her chair as she could without falling over, swung a tiny blue candlepin ball between her legs and set it off on a slow trip down the center of the lane.

MARK DAVIS

Former Burlington Police chief Mike Schirring, director of RTV Ignotz and associate secretary of the state's Agency of Commerce, described Osman as "a bridge" between Vermonters and their new Somali Bantu neighbors. As a community elder, Osman "helped to build relationships and understanding on topics that are often complex," Schirring wrote in an email. "That kind of work builds trust and helps to enhance community life."

Mohamed Muktar, one of the hosts of the weekly news program "Somali Bantu TV" remembered Osman as a "storyteller." When the elder was at the broadcast studio, he shared stories about life in Somalia and the history of the Bantus people.

He hoped Muktar to continue his work as a journalist, reporting and commenting on Somalia's current affairs. He would say, "Don't stop it. It's going to benefit the younger generation."

KYMELYA SARI

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"Her only strategy was to listen to her inexorable inner creative voice."

Karen Kames, November 17, 1925-July 12, 2016

In 1948, potter Karen Kames laid nearly everything she'd ever learned down her studio and the house she shared with her life partner, Ann Stannard, in the small Orleans County town of Morpion.

By her 2008 documentary *Don't Know We'll See The Work of Karen Kames*, Hershey Henseler Lucy Muzic Phelan captured the artist sitting through the charred remains. In one powerful scene, Karen opens the kiln to reveal three pots that survived the conflagration. "It's just how I was hoping it would look," she says.

Not that there was any doubt their work would endure: Collectors of her pottery include the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Art and Design in New York City and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

During her long career, Karen garnered a following and a medal of excellence from the Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston, among other accolades. Governor Howard Dean lauded them on her 1990 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

She and Stannard rebuilt their home in Morpion, Karen died there this summer at age 90.

Phelan said that Karen's pottery expressed fundamental humanity. "I always felt that her pots were really me," said the filmmaker, "but there was something unforced and un-self-conscious. They were just [an] outgrowth of something in her."

Karen's artistic drive emerged early. The daughter of Russian and Polish garment workers and union organizers, she grew up in the United Workers Cooperative Colony, aka the "Coops," in the Bronx. On her own, she applied and was accepted to Florence IL LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

"She just kept making, and following her own inspiration," Stannard said. "She was never influenced by other people or what they wanted or needed."

Karen began working with clay after meeting her future husband, David Winick, at Brooklyn College. In the late 1940s, the couple lived and made ceramics in a tent in Straburg, Pa., and then traveled to Santa Fe, N.M.

One piece Karen made in Italy appeared in a recent nationally touring exhibition, "Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College 1933-1967." Karen and Winick were potters-in-residence at that North Carolina experimental art school from 1952 to 1954, working alongside artists Josef and Anni Albers, John Cage, Merce Cunningham and Robert Rauschenberg, among many others.

"Karen's work is a perfect marriage of Asian aesthetics and fidelity of material, a quietness, with a



really modernist sense of form and purpose," and Massachusetts potter Mark Shapiro, who edited *A Closer Look: The Ceramic Art of Karen Kames*. "I think she might be one of the really great examples of those two traditions in potter culture."

Karen was also an early pioneer of slip-casting and wood-firing techniques. Her organic works certainly differ from the abstract-expressionist sculptures of her Black Mountain contemporary Peter Vostko.

"There were a lot of men at that period who were the louder guys in the room," Shapiro noted. "Karen was always really quiet — and yet she was at the forefront." And she didn't succeed through political maneuvering or lobby-chasing. "Her only strategy was to listen to her inexorable inner creative voice," he said. "It's a very moving and unusual thing."

As Black Mountain College began to dissolve in the mid-'50s, Karen cofounded the Gate Hill Cooperative in Stony Point, N.Y., and remained there 10 years. During that time she gave birth to her son, Abel, and separated amicably from Winick. Karen supported herself and Abel by selling her pottery.

In 1978, she and Stannard, a British artist, moved with several friends to Dorset, Vt., and homesteaded off the grid. In 1983, the two women established their own studios and home in Morpion, where Karen worked, read and generally kept to herself. "Karen was a very tender, a real kind of person," Stannard said.

Though she never taught formally, Karen was an influential mentor. "She was very important to young students — young women particularly," Stannard noted. "She didn't do teaching as such — she seemed all her living through her clay [but] she would give them a lot of time when she met them at shows or craft fairs. And people would come to the house to speak with her."

Karen was a role model not only for women. "We took courage from her," Shapiro said. "She stood for some kind of artistic fierceness and integrity that we all aspire to [but] can't quite embody. She never let anything stand in the way of her work."

"She was a feminist icon, as far as I'm concerned," he added. "But she would never say it. She just did it."

"My dad's No. 1 phrase was, 'Rock-and-roll never forgets.'"

Mike Witham, February 3, 1951-October 17, 2016

The term "celebration of life" is often a euphemism for "funeral." For drummer Mike Witham, stricken with terminal esophageal cancer, it was a way to announce his final show.

Held at the Barry neighborhood Casino, "Mike Witham's Celebration of Life While Still Living" on Sunday, September 26, was equal parts rock concert and Irish wake — with the notable exception that the deceased was not yet dead. Mike made an unusual entrance — the 65-year-old lifelong Vermont was rolled in on a red Kuba Flyer wagon with lit sparklers in his hands. And there was a loud rock band playing.

"It was surreal," said Mike's daughter, Jade Foster, of the party. "There was a lot of love. But there was a lot of sadness, because we knew we were getting toward the end."

Foster is the only daughter among the drummer's five children from his two wives. She estimates that between 150 and 200 people attended. Many had been Mike's bandmates at various points over the years, including members of the Days, the Fantamas, the Cheever Brothers and his most recent outfit, Deena Thunders and the Storm, to name a few. Other social local mainstays in attendance were country singer Tim Beck, rebel rocker Jimmy T. Thornton, drummer Jeff Salabury and bluesman Ray "Bird Man" Burke, among many others.

"My dad's No. 1 phrase was, 'Rock-and-roll never forgets,'" said Foster. "Rock-and-roll doesn't forget. We came together to celebrate him and good music. That's what musicians know how to do."

And it's exactly what they did. The party featured a 20-50 minute to benefit cancer research and a presentation to Mike of symbols signed by attendees. But the centerpiece of the evening was the rite, a nightlong jam session onstage. And the highlight was when Mike overcame the physical debilitation from his disease to man the kit one last time.

He managed to play a handful of tunes that night — no small feat for someone in the very last stages of cancer. At one point, Foster noted her father uncharacteristically lagging behind the beat, clearly tired. She was in the back of the bar to grab his good friend and longtime collaborator, guitarist Kurt Freeman, and urged him to be the stop.

"Wart played in it and it was like a surge of energy," recalled Foster. All of a sudden, Mike was back in the position. "My dad's like 'It up and he got right back on beat,'" she said, adding that, at the end of the race, he begged, "One more, one more."

"It was like putting a wilting flower in a vase



of writer," said Donna Morris, the lead singer of Donna Thomson and the Storm. "He just sprang back to life."

"Music can really revive a person," said Patrice.

She called the party Mike's "last moment of fame."

"To let him know what he meant to a lot of people," she said. "And not everybody has the opportunity to do that. He paved the way for a lot of musicians. And they told him that."

Mike was a fixture in the central Vermont music community for decades, having played his first gig at age 21. He ran a music shop, Whimsy Music, out of his home in Barre for 35 years. He taught drums and played in countless bands. He was also an artist and an avid collector of everything from old parade drums — some dating back to the late 1800s — to World War II memorabilia. His collection was so impressive that Morris describes his house as "a museum."

"He was a borderline hoarder," Foster joked. "Oh, and he collected hats. So many hats."

"We one had style quite like Mike," said Morris.

"He would describe himself as an extrovert," said Foster, when asked to characterize her dad. "He was an extrovert through and through. He walked to the beat of his own drum, and he created that beat."

It seems he did, even posthumously.

Mike went to the great gig in the sky drumsticks to hand, on October 3. His memorial service was held on October 26 at the First Presbyterian Church in Barre. It was called, fittingly, "The Final Cactus Call." And here, too, Mike made an unusual entrance.

"He said he wanted to be late to his own funeral," explained Foster with a laugh. To oblige the request, she and the family waited a few minutes past the Reverend's appointed time time. Just when mourners were beginning to get fidgety, they brought Mike's ashes into the sanctuary — carried inside a music drum.

SAN BOLLIE

"He really believed in his patients and took time to listen to them."

Dr. Henry Michael Tufo II, July 5, 1939-October 18, 2016

Carlson Tufo always told family and friends she'd never marry a doctor. That is, until a junior medical student walked into her parents' hospital room — she was a pediatric nurse in Chicago at the time. The med student discovered that the leg, who was about to undergo surgery, had a heart monitor. When the doctors had amputated it, the surgery proceeded, the defect likely would have killed him.

"That's when I realized he was brilliant," recalled Carlson of Henry Michael Tufo II, who became her husband at nearly 52 years.

Colleagues, patients and friends remember Dr. Tufo as a gifted diagnostician of difficult medical problems, whether afflicting individual patients or the entire health care system. Driven into rare hematology was often diagnosed for becoming administrators — at University of Vermont Medical Center CEO John Brunson put it, "going to the dark side" — Henry considered at "least a duty" for physicians to assume those leadership roles.



Henry, who died October 18 at age 77, played a seminal role in reforming Vermont's health care delivery system, first at the University Health Center, which he led for 24 years, then, at health care software company Itek Systems. But throughout his career at the highest echelons of Burlington's medical establishment, Tufo remained committed to his first love: treating patients. He continued to do so until his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2006.

"Henry believed that it was impossible to step out on top of the psychological and systemic side of things unless you were in touch with patients," said journalist and health policy analyst Hamilton Davis, the doctor's longtime patient and friend. "He was determined to do that, and no one ever could talk him out of it."

Henry was born in Chicago on July 5, 1939, to Italian immigrants. Early on, he seemed destined for a career on the stage, performing in school plays and, later, in radio and television shows including "The Gene Autry Show," "Super Circus," "The Man's Family" and "Showtime Tell." However, his father's sudden death from a heart attack when Henry was 12 inspired him to become a doctor.

When Carlson and Henry met in 1983, she said neither was looking to get married.

"It took him five dates to kiss me," she recalled. "Six months later, we were engaged."

Henry enlisted voluntarily in the Army Medical Corps during the Vietnam War, after completing his residency at the University of Illinois. He served stateside until his honorable discharge in 1971.

According to Carlson, Henry's stint in the Army taught him that medical tests were useless if the results were lost or if physicians didn't follow up on patients. From then on, she said, he dedicated himself to ensuring that patients "didn't fall through the cracks."

In 1970, the University of Vermont College of Medicine recruited Henry to establish one of the first integrated health systems in the country. There, he adapted a holistic, patient-centered approach to care; patients could see and comment on their own medical records, which were written in simple layman's terms.

"As a gastroenterist and hematologist, Dr. Tufo...always put the patient, the family and their needs above all else," said Brunson.

Often, these needs came before those of Henry's own family. His wife and kids and it was commonplace to wait for him to come home — or to join him on medical calls.

"I spent more nights staying in cars in front of people's houses, or in the emergency room, or in the press's rooms," Carlson recalled.

"That's just the way it was," added Tufo's son, Henry Michael III. "Dad was busy doing these things for his patients, and we just had to be patient."

Henry's daughter, Gabriella "Gabe" Tufo Brown, noted they weren't jealous of their dad's patients. "We knew how much he loved them, and he was also as present with us," she said.

Gabe has fond memories of seeing wheelchairs up and down the halls of the hospital with her brother. Once her dad arrived home, the family had dinner together almost every night. Tufo then used to kiss his kids, often falling asleep by their sides.

Though as children Gabe and Henry Michael couldn't fully appreciate the importance of their father's work, after his death Gabe and she were overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy from his former patients.

"In this day, people come up to me and say, 'Your father saved my life,'" Gabe noted. "He really believed in his patients and took time to listen to them."

As for Henry's own diagnosis of Parkinson's, he "happily" approached it as a challenge," said his son.

Just weeks before his death, Henry met with Davis at the former's summer cabin at Thompson's Point in Chelton, where they talked health care policy for more than two hours. Though Henry was deeply fatigued, Davis said his mind was as sharp as ever.

It's a irony that what ultimately crippled Henry's life was a lymphoma, diagnosed too late for treatment. Gabe said it was the only instance when she felt cheated out of time with her dad.

"At the end, when he retired," she recalled, "he said, 'I was a great ride.' And I believe that."

KEN PICARD

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The China Syndrome

A look back at 2016, America's last year as No. 1 at the movies

BY MARGOT HARRISON & RICK KISONAK



RK. If there's one thing we all can agree on, I suspect, it's that 2016 has been a seriously bizarre year. The election. *Ned I say more?* And, speaking of weird, The movie industry will make more money in 2016 than ever, even though ticket sales across the country plummeted their five-year-long free fall. What's the president of the Motion Picture Association of America these days — David Blaine?

The explanation is a development that's gotten surprisingly little mainstream coverage: While Americans have been distracted by the media's focus on Russia's covert hacking, the Chinese very openly have been carrying out a plan to take over the world of entertainment. Dubbed *Wanda Group*, a firm closely aligned to China's Communist Party, is well on its way to achieving its goal of "hold[ing] a real movie empire" by consolidating U.S. film studios and movie theater chains under one parent company.

In 2013, DWG bought AMC Entertainment, the second-largest movie theater chain in the U.S. It acquired Legendary Entertainment, the producer of *The Dark Knight* trilogy, earlier this year. With the purchase of

have amassed the largest chain in this country by the end of the year.

In 2016, China built an average of 37 new movie screens per day, surpassing the U.S. with 40,675 screens total. Last year, China's box office revenue increased by almost 50 percent; next year, it is projected to top that of the U.S., making China the largest movie market in the world. Oh, well. It was nice being No. 1.

How does all this explain the fact that Hollywood is making more money while selling fewer tickets at home? The answer is that moviegoers are jumping through Communist Party hoops so they can still flicker over them. Even a macroscopic slice of the Chinese pie is worth billions in Hollywood annually. The country's urban middle class — those most likely to be filmgoers — is growing rapidly and already roughly equivalent to the entire U.S. population.

You know what that means. Movies are going to be increasingly tailored to Chinese tastes and to appeal to the party's self-image. It's already happening. The 2013 remake of *Kid Down* originally featured Chinese soldiers invading an American town. Producers changed the invaders into North Koreans. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, a record-breaking hit

here, didn't do nearly as well in China, likely because it lacked Asian talent. It's no coincidence that this year's *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* features major Asian stars. Not to mention martial-arts sequels.

Spoilers ahead: Awards conductor *Arrival* was adapted from the novel "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang. Guess what — there's no handsome Chinese general who saves the world as the hero. Or may wonder if the makers of the movie omitted the character to ingratiate themselves with that overseas diaspora.

Yes, one wacky year indeed. I wish those filmmakers luck with the Communist Party — and at the upcoming Golden Globe Awards. As of last month, the Chinese own that, too.

MHE. The trend of casting nudes as extras is certainly real — and is probably contributing to making Hollywood movies bigger, stupider and louder, given that subterfuge don't translate as easily as leeches, punches and explosions. Still, I can't say I detested much covert Communist Party ideology in this year's films. I was happy to see more women and people of color in leading roles and behind the camera — a pattern I hope continues.

Most Stellar Performance

RK. I can't understand why Miles Teller isn't receiving more awards consideration for his all-in portrayal of Vinny Pazienza, the Rhode Island fighter who made the comeback of all comebacks in the '90s. He's amazing as *Bird Jr. This*, conveying the agony and unbridled joy in every lousy step. Michael Keaton impeccably flew under the radar as well, but his work in *The Founder* is fairly celebrated and limo-ride from start to finish. Casey Affleck is extraordinary in *Manchester by the Sea* and will probably walk away with most of the season's best-actor buzzwords. But, in all honesty, I don't think I enjoyed a 2016 performance more than I enjoyed the one Michael Shannon gave in the dying Texas detective in *Nocturnal Animals*. Is he very underrated or what?

MHE. I've been a Michael Shannon fan for a while, but was also outstanding this year in *Midnight Special*, and probably deserves a special award for the sheer otherworldliness of his recent political stunts. (The man is, let's just say, not a Donald Trump fan.)

But I was most enthralled by Rebecca Hall playing troubled newscaster Christine Chubbuck in *Christine* — a complex,



The Founder

thoughtful portrayal that raises questions about how we live our lives on film today. Amy Adams just deserves recognition for going against its emotional punch.

Most Annoying Performance

RK: Well, the entire cast of *Satellite* comes to mind. But, narrowing it down to a single performer, I'd have to say Susan Sarandon in *The Meddler* and Sally Field in *Willy, My Name Is Doris* were about as annoying as screen legends got in the past year. Of the two, I'd have to give Field's performance the edge as the more cloying, just painful to watch.

MR: The *Shallow* had potential as a fun summer thriller, but it was essentially a one-scene show in which Blake Lively was outacted by a wacky asexual. Her stony, self-conscious delivery grated about as much as Jesse Eisenberg's in *Between a Vagueness*, *Doves of Justice*. He can do so much better.

Best Comedy

RK: What a strong year it was for this category, from the saturated metaphysics of *Sausage Party* to *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising* to the indescribably delicious *Mean* for the *Wilderpeople* to *Kevin Hart: What Now?* to Todd Solondz's weird and wonderful *Winesap*. Day. Even kids' films like *The Secret Life of Pets* were groundbreakingly funny this year. But, looking back, I don't believe it got better than *Central Intelligence*. It's one of the smartest dumb comedies ever made. Who would've guessed that former wrestler and *Raid & Furies* regular Davey Johnson is really a giant, muscle-bound teddy bear gifted with terrific comic instincts and boundless reserves of sweetness? Not me.

MR: I'm not entirely sure Tom Hanks' is a comedy, or what it is. But two



The Founder

absurdist scenes in this German film about a dad trying to connect with his workaholic daughter made me laugh harder than almost anything else this year. With any luck, we'll see the movie in Vermont one day.

Worst Comedy

RK: *A Million for the Ring* is Tom Hanks' biggest flop, but, incredibly, even better comic efforts proved the multiples this past year. *Keeping Up With the Joneses* was exceptionally loud. As were *Zealand 2* and the aforementioned *Molly, My Name Is Doris* and *The Meddler*. I'm going to go with *Whiskey Tango Romeo*, however, because a film really has to reek to make *Fisher* but all the year's biggest howl-off flops when it has the malintended *Tom Fox* going for it.

MR: *Mike Linn*, the movie that ensures Kevin Spacey will always have "meats of a CGI cat" on his résumé. The only funny thing about it: Christopher Walken crossing the phrase "pooey boy."

Biggest Letdown

RK: This is a close one. *Raid, Caesar!* is the *Caern* on autopilot. On the other hand, *Live by Night*, Ben Affleck's



The Founder

disincarnated follow-up to *Argo*, never even gets off the ground. An unbearably boring stilted, overlong dud.

MR: Maybe I was good at managing my movie expectations this year, because I didn't have any huge letdowns. But *Raid, Caesar!* was underwhelming. *Afford* and *Miss Sloane* bored me, and *La La Land* was a little meaner and less magical than I'd hoped. Maybe I need to use it on the big screen.

Biggest Surprise

RK: David Mackenzie. Ring a bell? I wasn't familiar with the name, either. Then I saw the British writer-director's *Moss* or *High Water*. Now I won't soon forget it.

MR: *Swan Army*, a high-concept film about a whiskey lobbyist and his far-left-corporate friend that I somehow found both funny and touching. *Mileage* may vary.

Film So Forgettable I Didn't Remember Seeing It Until Compiling This Year-End Review

RK: Mike and Dave *Need Wedding Doves*. What's to remember about

this long, repetitive and predictable anti-laughter? Little, other than that it managed to assemble likable and entertaining personalities and somehow generate a no movie single. What Mike and Dave really needed was better, more imaginative material.

MR: The *Infirmary*. How could I be bored by a movie combining Ryan Reynolds, period wear and drug busts? I'm a huge "Bavling Kid" fan but this poorly structured heist was all style and no substance.

Best New Name to Watch in Front of the Camera

RK: Lior's plot-line superhero *Sunny Fower* is this year's *Josh Tremblay* (*Queen*). Just 6 when he was discovered, the first-time actor effortlessly carries the *For-Haven* film's first half as young *Sunny* Brinkley segues from his family for 25 years when he full superhero action.

Fower was attending a school for disadvantaged children in Mumbai when British *Earth* Doves put out an India-wide casting call. Ironically, the U.S. initially denied *Fower* a visa, separating him from his film family when the time came to promote the picture. Now 6, he wouldn't appear to pose a serious threat. Except, of course, to other prepubescent thespians.

MR: Discovered by director Andres Arredol on a beach, 21-year-old Sasha

The China Syndrome PG-13

Lane lights up the sparkling narrative of *American Honey* with her dandelion energy.

But I would feel content if I didn't also mention the scene-stealing performances of some actual "actors" enjoying their first and probably last moments in the spotlight. Sally the seagull in *The Shoreline*, the seven kittens who played *Roma*, and the billy goat named Charlie who roared his contents with satanic energy in *The Witch*.

Best New Name to Watch Behind the Camera

RE. To my mind, this is a tie between Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight*) and Tom Ford (*Winter's Bone*). Jenkins scores like the newer name, but both have directed two feature films. In other respects, the pair has little in common. Other than undeniable genius.

MJR. I'll be watching both of them, for sure. And, if you weren't watching Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos after *Dogtooth* (2009), you definitely will be after this year's *The Lobster*. Only to see what kind of bizarre satirical provocation he can possibly serve up next. Please stay weird!

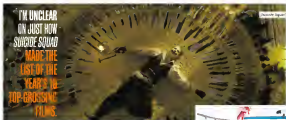
Most Inexplicable Hit

RE. I'm unclear on just how *Stevie Nicks* *Squad* made the list of the year's top-grossing films. It's a mopey, mopey mess. The action is a bore—these days that you, the obligatory wince-inducing full-on and the CGI work looks like composites from *Gladiator*—the original. The latest addition to the DC Entertainment universe may have sold tickets and set records, but one thing it definitely didn't do is entertain.

MJR. Right above *Stevie Nicks* on that list was *Boat* *Barman* *Superman*. *Boat* *Boat*, 161 minutes of open-to-much posturing relieved by the occasional scene so ridiculous it's fun. One can only hope next year's *Wonder Woman* will take itself a little less seriously.

Most Inexplicable Flop

RE. The words "kitchen" and "bag" aren't often seen in the same sentence, but somehow *Brooklyn*'s totally fish *The Beatles* *Eight Days a Week*—*The Touring Years* went up No. 189 on Box Office Mojo's 2016 list. What makes it flopper than *Men* *Shed*, *The Brothers* *Grenady*, *Paper*—*Never* *Stop* *Never* *Stopping* and



Wonder—all on that Forbes list of the year's biggest bombs. Help!

MJR. While not mega-bombs, Laila's beautiful animation *Kubo* and the two *Jurassic* (*No. 66*) and *Skate* *Black*'s comedy *The Nice Guys* (*No. 68*)—featuring a hilarious Ryan Gosling turn as a wannabe—should have connected with bigger audiences. Catch them on video or streaming.

Freshest, Most Creative Screenplay

RE. *Key* *Seff* *Rogers*, *Even* *Goldberg* and *Ariel* *Shaffari*'s *Sausage Party*. Animated grocery items finding God, smacking weed and engaging in a graphic ethnic rap—yes, I need I say once!

MJR. It doesn't get much fresher than Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthymis Filippidis' screenplay for *The Lobster*, which starts as a dystopian satire of online dating culture, then flips around to mock instant orgasms, then asks if there's any way human beings can engage with the concept of romantic love that doesn't make them ridiculous.

Most Formulaic, Cliché-Infested Screenplay

RE. *Let* *Le* *Lend*. Yes, I realize Denzel Washington's married to a critical darling and Oscar favorite. That doesn't make it sort the boldest two hours and eight minutes to dance into a complex (but not too) 12 months. Gaby struggling, yes, please! But for aspiring actors in modern-day Times Square. Highest cliché count of the year by far.

MJR. The screenplay for *The Accountant*, by Bill Dubuque (*The Judge*), packs in as many clichés that I guess you could say it ends up exhibiting a kind of twisted brilliance. Super-genius martial-arts expert with autism Dauged failed again

with emotional baggage! Tally ho, mate! Dozens of increasingly silly twists! All of this nonsense combined in a single film that makes less and less sense as it goes on.

Best Movie With No Movie Stars

RE. *Barry Jenkins'* moving, powerful *Moonlight* *Doesn't* have a familiar face in it, but it ranks among the year's most accomplished works of cinema.

MJR. With any luck, Mahesh Ali, who plays the loving center in that film and also appears in the forthcoming *Hidden Figures*, is on his way to stardom. Another starless film I enjoyed was the drink-inducing period piece *The Witch*.

Worst Movie With an All-Star Cast

RE. This is a tight race, what with crowd-sourced duds like *Live by Night* and *Mad*, *Conan*'s sinking up the year, but I've got to give it to Warren Beatty's *Stiles* *Don't* *Apply* a nose. Everybody and his uncle are in this movie, from the great Paul Sorvino and Candice Bergen to Martin Sheen and Matthew Broderick. Too bad there's so little of interest for them to do.

MJR. The biggest problem with *Alfred* was also its singular blind spot, who didn't turn on the cameras—or, anything else, really—in his role as a dashing Canadian pilot. Maroon Coiffard, Jared Harris, Lizzy Caplan and others also felt wasted in the increasingly druggy film.

Whom We'd Like to See More of at the Movies

RE. Ellen Barkin plays a better model who hides behind huge black sunglasses and assumes the titular cancer *Cancer* in *Winter* *Day*. It's a dark note of a performance and a reminder of what a powerful, scary actress she is. It



would be nice to see her get something besides bit parts.

MJR. Still very much a leading lady at 63, Isabelle Huppert is surely mesmerizing as an alpha female in Paul Verhoeven's new thriller *Elle*. It's one of the performances of the year. I know she's in tons of French movies, but it would be nice to see some of those films on American screens for a change.

Whom We'd Like to See Less of at the Movies

RE. Back around the time of *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (2010), I wrote in a review that Werner Herzog seemed slightly nuttier than usual. The filmmaker has always been incredibly eccentric, but, since then, he's become increasingly daffy and pedantic. Herzog made three movies this year, two of them documentaries. One is about volcanoes. The other is about the internet. Each features stunning imagery, challenging subject matter and jolting, quasi-blooming depression. For the sake of his legacy, I'd like to see him give it a rest.

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truexgullins **bc**
ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN

Personal Care Attendants

Start your healthcare career at the VNA.

Free PCA Training!

Next session begins January 16! Sign up now!

Call Lisa Barron at (802) 860-6469 for more info.



www.vnacares.org
1120 Prim Road, Colchester



PROGRAM DIRECTOR

and TEACHERS

Using eProgram Director to set up all of our children's runs, and teachers to enter growing children's names

Email resume to leads4bounds@gmail.com or 879-0355.



Join Our Team!

The Lake Champlain Regional Council of Governments puts everything into place to help our members grow their businesses - creating opportunity is our reason and making it an even better place to live, work and do business.

Marketing and Events Coordinator

We are looking for someone who can help us promote events in our region and planned marketing opportunities for our members. If you are creative, have strong communication skills, enjoy building relationships with a diverse set of stakeholders and love putting effort into tasks, we want to hear from you! A full job description is available online at www.lcrco.org/sportswatch.

Sales and Marketing Assistant

The Vermont Economic Alliance, a division of the Champlain region's largest (28 hours per week) trade association to support their efforts to attract meetings and events to Vermont. Position requires great customer relations skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office applications and ability to travel. Job description is available online at www.vemall.org/sportswatch.

Interested candidates can forward their name and cover letter to Sales@VermontEconomicAlliance.org



FINANCIAL SYSTEMS ANALYST

Aurora North Software, Inc. is a Burlington, VT based software company developing customized legal software and providing related consulting services. We develop and implement core systems at some of the country's most prestigious law firms.

ANSE has an immediate opening for a T/YT Financial Systems Analyst with a bachelor's degree in Information Systems, Computer Science, Engineering or Accounting and 4+ years of related experience with significant accounting and analytical responsibilities, supporting client and project management teams with data-driven reporting. System and database knowledge will be required to aggregate managed data for system advancement and reporting to be delivered to department directors, senior managers, and the finance department. This role will assist in accomplishing the goals of the organization's strategic plan. Plan and prepare ad hoc cost accounting reports, and other periodic analytic reports related to cost, projects, and products. Respond to requests for management information, using data mining tools as necessary. Retrieve data from various accounting and finance applications. Develop accurate and meaningful reports for use of client and project management. Assist in preparation of annual revenue and statistical budgets.

Candidates require skills with MS SQL, Query Development, a strong aptitude for enterprise systems data analysis, experience with system integration best practices, project lifecycle, and collaborative software development practices. Plus executive communication, cross system data integration, and system and algorithm requirement documentation. The ability to successfully interact with co-workers is essential.

Our employees describe the work environment as fairly intense, fast-paced, highly fun, and fun. Aurora offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. If you have a passion for perpetual improvement, enjoy a diversity of projects, robust autonomy, and play well with others, we'll love to hear from you. Please send your resume and cover letter to careers@auroranorthsoftware.com.



EQUIPMENT MOVER

Entry-level position for a motivated individual for installation of vending equipment. Experience with vending equipment preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Must possess mechanical skills and be willing to learn various levels of repair. You must have a clean driving record.

We offer competitive wages, benefits and a challenging environment.

Apply online at farrellvending.com or in person at

**Farrell Vending
Services**
405 Pine Street,
Burlington, VT 05401

LOCAL PROVIDES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY OR GENETICS

CONNECTIONS GROUP CONNECTIONS BUYER

KSR is a full service digitally integrated advertising agency. Our mission is to build, optimize and manage powerful and efficient campaigns. With experience in both branding and direct response programs, we tailor media programs to achieve the objectives of our clients.

KSR is looking for a Connections Media Buyer. You will be tasked with creating innovative, productive and well negotiated media buys across a mix of media channels for our clients. This is an exciting role in an ever changing media landscape.

Job Description:

The Connections Buyer is responsible for all media buying functions for assigned KSR clients, this includes, but is not limited to the execution of Connections plans and monitoring and optimizing of media buys. He/she acts as the primary link of media information internally between the Connections Planner, the Client team and the Systems Group and externally with media partners.

Responsibilities:

- Is responsible for Connections media buying, negotiating and placement for assigned clients across channels, digital and offline
- Monitor and optimizes all channel activity ensuring buys support client marketing objectives.
- Creates and runs data/analytics reports for media buys and related digital activity for assigned clients
- Works with Analytics Manager and Connections Planner to identify buy insights and trends as it relates to data analytics for client reporting.
- Participates in preparing client reports and in client meetings
- Works with Connections Planner to develop effective and efficient Connections buys
- Is the direct link between KSR and media partners which includes preparing and sending insertion orders to ensure placement. Assists with creative delivery by compiling creative ad specifications and delivery instructions
- Negotiates media buys on behalf of clients
- Sets up and implements DMA 3rd Party ad serving tags for digital display advertising
- Manages client media billing for assigned accounts and works with Systems Group to reconcile and expedite media partner invoices
- Supports media buying team by establishing buying best practices and looks for opportunities to streamline and enhance the media buying process
- Handles media related calls with media reps and clients as needed
- Seeks out new media buying partners for assigned clients and to educate the team
- Performs media research and helps with new business when needed

Apply to kawer@kcsr.com.

211 Belling St., Burlington, VT 05401
www.kcsr.com



SEVEN DAYS

sevendaysvt.com

Sales & Marketing Coordinator

Seven Days is seeking a full-time Sales & Marketing Coordinator to fill a rare vacancy on our successful sales team. If you're smart, personable and organized – and eager to work with an innovative, entrepreneurial staff – we'll want to talk to you. You should have excellent communication skills, incredible customer service skills, the ability to be self-motivated but also a team player, and have a positive attitude. Demonstrated mastery of social media and digital marketing for business will be crucial as you will be tasked with helping generate revenue and create new online products. You will also assist with events on some evenings and weekends.

Send cover letter and resume by January 4 to sales@sevendaysvt.com.

no phone calls or drop-ins, please



Web Developer/Programmer

For position details and application process, visit <http://jobs.phobiasurgery.com> and select "View Current Openings"

BOV College in Newburgh is a fully computer enabled campus to monitor through desktop

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America's premier innovator, designer and manufacturer of high-performance video and cable with a 60-year history of providing solutions to the toughest problems in the world's most extreme environments. We excel at developing customized products, utilizing our cross-linked modulation technology. That meet power, signal and data transmission needs—no matter how demanding the challenge—while exceeding standards for quality, durability and safety.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

The plant master electrician will be responsible for all electrical maintenance for our manufacturing facility in Colchester, VT. Primary responsibilities are to install, troubleshoot, and repair all electrical devices and equipment to minimize production downtime and plant maintenance costs. The plant electrician will also help maintenance with its plant mechanical needs, responsibilities and duties. You will also work with new machinery and equipment installers wiring the power supply and conduct to and between machines and equipment, using hand tools and test equipment.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

The master electrician maintains production and quality by ensuring the operation of electrical systems, apparatus, and electrical and electronic components of facility, machinery, and equipment.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Master Electrician license
- At least 5 years of related work experience, preferably in manufacturing.
- Able to work from electrical schematics, sketches, print, and verbal instructions.
- Experience working on motors and controls, electronics troubleshooting, problem solving, equipment maintenance, power factor, technical understanding, judgment, attention to details, and job knowledge.
- Operate a forklift and work at heights 30 feet or more.
- Have a complete set of tools

We offer a very competitive salary, profit-sharing, 401(k), benefits, vacation, and a great work environment! Please submit your resume and/or cover letter to info@champlaincable.com or mail to 175 Hercules Dr. Colchester, VT 05446.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

AURORA

BOOKKEEPER

Aurora North Software, Inc. is a Burlington, VT-based software company developing customized legal software and providing related consulting services. We develop and implement core systems at some of the country's most prestigious law firms.

ANSI has an immediate opening for a P/T Bookkeeper with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and/or 2+ years of related experience. Bookkeeper will support our financial department with data entry, A/R, A/P, and general administration. Skills and abilities required include experience and competency with accounting software, specifically QuickBooks. The ability to work independently and be self-motivated and organized. Skills in Microsoft Office with an emphasis on Excel spreadsheets are required as well as strong analytical and communication skills, ability to handle multiple projects, and a proven focus on accuracy and attention to detail. The ideal candidate is a hard working goal driven, proficient with technology, and possesses excellent customer service skills. The ability to successfully interact with co-workers is essential.

Our employers describe the work environment as fairly intense, fast-paced, tightly run, and fast. Aurora offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. If you have a passion for perpetual improvement, enjoy a diversity of projects, robust autonomy, and play well with others, we'd love to hear from you!

Please send your resume and cover letter to careers@auroranorthsoftware.com



**VERMONT
WORKS
FOR WOMEN**

VWW IS HIRING! GIRLS' PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This 40 hr/week position opens out of the three office to support and implement a diverse array of programs for young women ages 17-26. We are looking for someone with demonstrated experience in program coordination, excellent administrative and communication skills, and experience working with young people. This is a year-round, regular position with a salary starting at \$35,360 plus an excellent benefits package. Travel around northern Vermont required. VWW is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity of the organization and deliver programs to a broad audience. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

For a more complete job description please go to vwworksforswomen.org/about/employment/jobs. To apply, please e-mail resume, cover letter, and three references to jobs@vwworksforswomen.org; application deadline is January 9, 2017. No calls or faxes, please.

VWW is an Equal Opportunity Employer

STARR FARM

is looking for

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for Nurses and RNs

RNs

LPNs

NRNs

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Full Time and

Part Time available

We Hire New Grad!

Walk in

Interviews Welcome!

Contact

jane.hughes@starrfarm.com

909-414-3633

Preventive Medicine

Clinical Assistant

(MA/LPN/LNA)

This is an immediate opening! Wellness Practice in Colchester, VT is seeking a full time, experienced clinical assistant. We're looking for a team player that is detail oriented, energetic and can work independently in a very busy office. EMR, IM, EKG & phlebotomy skills are required! Experience in scrubbing and IVs are a plus.

Please send your resume with cover letter and 3 professional references to preventive@wellnesspractices.com



GROCERY BUYER (P/T)

Place, purchase and merchandise local, national, organic, and conventional products. Organization, attention to detail, good communication skills and prior experience in food retail in co-op, natural foods, or small store setting required. Resume: PO Box 339, South Royalton, VT 05068 or soromachef@gmail.com **ATTENTION GENERAL MANAGER by January 4th** More info: Adlene Smith 802 763 2400

**FARRELL
VENDING**
SERVICES

VENDING ROUTE DRIVERS

 Burlington
and Brandon

We are looking for motivated, responsible individuals. Must be able to work independently, possess a positive attitude, be capable of lifting up to 50 pounds and have a clean driving record. We offer a competitive wage along with benefits.

Apply in person or online at
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405 Pine Street
Burlington, VT 05401
farrellvending.com.



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**THE ARBORS
of SHELburne**
Benchmark Senior Living Community

The Arbors at Shelburne, A Benchmark Senior Living Community is focused entirely on serving people living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and all memory related diseases.

\$1500 SIGN ON BONUS

LNAS

full time days

NON-LICENSED NURSES' AIDES

full time days

We offer competitive wages and benefit package. Must mention this ad and accept full time day shift employment to receive the sign on bonus.

Please call and ask for Alysha to schedule an interview or stop in to complete an application and on-the-spot interview.

The Arbors at Shelburne
Attn: Alysha Curtis
687 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482
802-985-3600

acurtis@benchmarkquality.com

A Benchmark Assisted Living Community (BGC)



Director of Finance for Accountable Care

ORANGE, VERMONT

- In search of a leader who will help design alternative payment models and will provide financial management for CareCore Vermont Accountable Care Organization and the UVM Health Network's Accountable Care Services department.

Qualified Candidates Will Have:

- A Doctorate or Master's level degree in finance, business administration, accounting or economics. CPA is preferred
- 10-15 years of progressively responsible financial experience
- At least 4-8 years in a leadership role
- 5+ years of experience in the health care industry (preferably in Managed Care or Accountable Care)

Only online applications will be accepted uvm.health.org
Equal Opportunity Employer: All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or protective status.

University of Vermont
MEDICAL CENTER

UVMHealth.org/MedCenter/Careers

 Are you an
Engineer,
Teacher or Maker
Enthusiast?

 Want seasonal
work making
a difference
in young
people's lives?

Director

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont has an opening for a new Director of the renowned Engineering Institute. This residential week on a college campus gives Vermont's high school students and teachers a chance to immerse themselves deeply in topics ranging from robotics and electrical engineering to sustainable energy and biomedical engineering. The position includes flexible hours and flexible location except for the week in residence with students. Most staff return each year for a full job description and to apply: giv.org/jobs



INVESTIGATOR POSITION - PRISONERS' RIGHTS OFFICE

MONTPELIER

The state of Vermont has approximately 2000 inmates serving prison sentences, and the Prisoners' Rights Office is charged to every complaint that inmates make about their experience either in the criminal justice system or within the prison system. PRO investigators visit the correctional facilities in Vermont and out of state on a regular basis to meet with clients. They also respond to inmate letters and phone calls, and handle issues ranging from inmate disciplinary complaints, concerns regarding mental health and medical treatment, the struggle to find housing, and interpersonal conflicts within correctional facilities. The position requires a high degree of independence and confidentiality, as well as the ability to work well with department staff, Department of Corrections employees, and others.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and four years of professional investigating or case work, or experience as required by the Defender General. Additional work experience may be substituted for the bachelor's degree on a six months per semester basis.

Entry level, PG-12 position starting at \$21.30 per hour. Full State benefits. Position is exempt but covered by the GED/VSEA bargaining agreement. A full job description is available on the Defender General web page under Employee Resources.

Please email resume and cover letter by January 17th to Mary Stewart, HR & Program Administrator at mary.stewart@montpelier.gov

CHITTENDEN SOUTH
SUPERVISORY UNION

BUS DRIVERS

Immediate Openings!

The Chittenden South Supervisory Union has immediate openings for Regular Route Drivers for the 16-17 school year. Great starting salary and benefits.

Contact Ken Martin
Call 922-4878 or
kemartin@csu.org
for more details.

Discover the
many sides of AAA.



WE'RE HIRING
Apply to join our team today.

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There's a side of AAA that many people don't always see. More than great travel discounts and roadside assistance, we're a company that can offer you a variety of career opportunities.

**Now Hiring
Insurance Agents and Insurance Agent Trainees**
in Montpelier, Vermont

We offer competitive commission, benefits packages and paid training.

Learn more about what AAA has to offer.
Please visit: AAA.com/careers

AAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

VPR

Host/Reporter All Things Considered

VPR has an exciting opportunity for the right person to host All Things Considered, report news and produce interviews. This position is an integral part of VPR's statewide news, programming and digital network in a strong media market. Successful candidates thrive in a high energy environment. They possess high quality on-air delivery, the ability and inclination to quickly respond to news events, and the initiative to explore the whole Vermont story through conversation. A commitment to advancing public radio journalism and public service in a shifting media environment is essential. Requirements include a bachelor's degree in a related field, 3-5 years of broadcast experience, demonstrated excellence in news reporting, and a strong digital presence.

Find the full job description and application process at vpr.net/careers.
VPR IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Join the Good News Garage Team!

We're hiring

Lead Vehicle Donation Processor

We're looking for a person to provide day-to-day supervision of this vehicle placement process in GNG's Burlington, VT office. The Vehicle Donation Processor works with donors to ensure vehicle donations happen in an efficient and professional manner; schedules repair work, works with vendors and partner garages, and manages all related paperwork. A working knowledge of car and car repair is highly desirable. Must have superior customer service, attention to detail, a valid driver's license and clear motor vehicle driving record. This is a great opportunity to work in a meaningful environment empowering others.

Ready To Go Drivers

We're looking for personable drivers to safely transport our clients and their children in Montpelier. Must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record.

If you enjoy being part of a fast-moving team, apply today by emailing a resume and cover letter to shel@info@secentria.org.

Secentria Care Alliance is an equal opportunity employer.



Good News Garage

A member of Secentria Care Alliance

The State of Vermont

For the people...the place...the possibilities.

IT SYSTEMS DEVELOPER III

Agency of Natural Resources

Are you a proven Software Developer motivated in having an impact on how Vermont moves and manages the environmental, social and fiscal consequences of major developments in Vermont? The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Board is interested in hearing from you!

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Information Technology Division (AVR IT) and the Natural Resources Board (NRB) is looking for an energetic, creative Software Developer to design, develop, and deploy a new .Net system to support the Natural Resources Board Act 250 application, data, and document management processes. The candidate will work in a project environment collaborating with NRB and Act 250 stakeholders as well as AVR IT staff to create detailed requirements and functional specifications, storyboard user interfaces, program and deploy .NET applications, manage a thorough testing process, and then start in the new system. For more information, contact Mary (Sawell) at mary.sawell@vermont.gov or 800-253-0191 (777-Tree Service). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package. Application deadline: January 4, 2017.

To apply you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Personnel Services, at 855-458-6700 (toll-free) or 800-253-0191 (777-Tree Service). The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.

VERMONT



TOWN OF SHELBURNE

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The Town of Shelburne seeks a full-time Maintenance Technician. This position is predominantly a physical labor intensive job and is primarily responsible for the ongoing care, maintenance, upkeep and appearance of Shelburne-owned and/or managed facilities. The position may require working overtime hours on nights and weekends, and requires being on-call 24/7 during winter months.

A complete job description is available at shelburne.org/137/16-human-resources.

Please submit a resume or a letter of Shelburne Employment Application along with three (3) professional references by January 4, 2017 to Susan Cassinazzi, Human Resources Coordinator, Town of Shelburne, P.O. Box 85, Shelburne, VT 05484 or electronically to scassin@shelburne.org.

THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE OFFERS AN EXCELLENT WORK ENVIRONMENT AND BENEFITS PACKAGE, AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Champlain Community Services

Champlain Community Services is a progressive, intimate, developmental services provider agency with a strong emphasis on self-determination values and employee & consumer satisfaction.

The following positions are excellent opportunities to join a distinctive developmental service provider during a time of growth.

Shared Living Providers: Provide residential supports to an individual in your home. Generous stipend, paid time off (supte), comprehensive training and supports are provided. We are currently hiring for a variety of situations. For more information, contact Jennifer Holcott, jholcott@ccs-vt.org or 855-0511 ext. 118.

Community Inclusion Facilitators: Provide one-on-one inclusion supports to an individual with an intellectual disability or autism. Help fulfill their life goals, reach their goals and be productive members of their community. We are currently hiring for several positions with comprehensive benefit packages. Send your resume and cover letter to staff@ccs-vt.org.

ccs-vt.org

The State of Vermont For the people, the place, the possibilities.

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital



NURSE EDUCATOR

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCOH), a 25 bed state-of-the-art, progressive facility providing excellent care in a recovery-oriented, safe, respectful environment has an immediate opening for a Nurse Educator whose work will improve patient care and enhance recruitment and retention of staff. Responsibilities include providing employee orientation, oversight of the preceptor program, providing needed trainings for direct care staff, an educational career path for Mental Health Specialists, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Apply Online at www.careers.vermont.gov

Nurse Educator - Job Opening ID# 620059

For more information, please contact Scott Perry at 802-628-2591 or scott.perry@vermont.gov

The questions listed for your application will be asked in the Department of Human Resources Recruitment Interview at 802-628-2591 or 800-233-6644 (Toll-free). The State of Vermont offers an excellent initial compensation package. It is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Earn \$50

Research project on
decision making

Monday, January 9th, 2017

Will meet in
Colchester area

18 years or older only

Email

michvdcree@gmail.com
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or call (802) 348-9391

New, local, scam- free jobs posted every day!

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PAYROLL SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Feel good about where you work and what you do! We are the Institute of Professional Process, Inc., a non-profit human services agency making a meaningful difference in the lives of adults and children with autism and other disabilities. We provide residential programs, day support, special education, and employment services in partnership with families and in collaboration with public and private health, human services, education and other government agencies.

The Payroll Systems Administrator reports to the Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for processing bi-weekly payroll for our Vermont office as well as accounting, supporting and collaborating with payroll teams from our state operations in Maryland, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Duties include bi-weekly processing of payroll, importing data into the general ledger, reporting and record keeping, 950W administration, year-end processing, tax & garnishment filing and overall data integrity.

Experience with Unigen and Great Plains software packages a definite advantage. We are also looking for 3-5 years of payroll processing experience, a bachelor's degree in accounting or related field, high level Excel skills and a track record of reliability and professionalism.

Join us in a fabulous and friendly working environment in our Berlin, VT office. We offer great benefits including medical, dental, vision, disability and retirement plans. We also offer numerous professional, educational opportunities and much more.

Visit our website for more information: www.ippi.org

Interested, please submit your resume and cover letter to employment@ippi.org

The New School of Montpelier

We are a small independent school serving unique children and youth life are recruiting dedicated individuals to join our diverse staff in this exciting and challenging work. Positions start immediately.

Para-educator/ Student Supervisor

This is a one-on-one para-educator position supporting students in the development of academic, communication, social, and self-regulation skills. Settings may include classroom, one-on-one environments and the community. Must possess good communication/collaboration skills.

An associates degree or five years' experience after high school preferred. Candidates must have a valid driver's license and reliable vehicle. Criminal record checks will be conducted for final candidates.

Submit a resume to
**The New School of
Montpelier**
11 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

or email to
cdellinger@nsmvt.org

www.nsmvt.org

no phone calls, please!

Goddard College

Located in beautiful Plainfield, VT, we have three benefit-eligible position openings
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & CLERK
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Full-time, Benefit-Eligible

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SUPPORT SPECIALIST**
Full-time, Benefit-Eligible
HOUSEKEEPER
Full-time, Benefit-Eligible

Position descriptions and application instructions are available here: goddard.edu/about-goddard/employment-opportunities.
Goddard College is committed to creating a college environment of a diverse global community and capable of creating change. To that end, we are actively seeking applications from qualified candidates from groups currently underrepresented in our institutions for this position.



Pediatric EHR Solutions

Technical Solutions Specialist

PCC is looking for a talented, energetic Technical Solutions Specialist to join our company. We are an award-winning provider of software solutions for pediatric practices.

Our Technical Solutions Specialists provide a broad range of technical services to our clients. Their responsibilities include providing telephone support, performing remote system administration, researching system improvements and traveling to client sites to install servers, networks and perform upgrades.

You will develop enduring relationships with pediatricians and their office staff while you support their services and networks. This position requires a blend of technical expertise and exceptional customer care and communication skills.

Candidates should have two or more years of professional, client-facing IT experience including Linux and Windows system administration, TCP/IP networking, good security practices, and comfort with hardware configuration and installation.

As a Benefit Corporation, we place high value on client, employee and community relationships. Our company offers a friendly, informal, and professional work environment. PCC offers competitive benefits as well as state vacation policy.

PCC is located in the Champlain Mill in Winooski, VT. To learn more about PCC, this position, and how to apply, please visit our website at pcc.com/careers. The deadline for submitting your application is January 9, 2017.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



QUEEN CITY
PRINTERS INC.

Est. 1961
www.qcpi.com

Printing Sales Representative

Quality-oriented commercial printing firm seeks highly motivated sales person to join our sales team. If you are interested in Graphic Arts and have excellent communication skills, sales experience (printing sales helpful) and deal well with detailed information, and access to

Queen City Printers Inc.
760 Pine Street
Rutland VT 05700

or info@qcpi.com

We're Hiring. Join Our Team!

E-Commerce Store Manager

City Market has an exciting new position to develop our new E-Commerce program! The E-Commerce Store Manager will work with outside consultants and independent groups to create City Market's new online ordering system, including options for both delivery and in-store pick-up of groceries. This new position will work with our E-commerce Operations team and create an e-commerce platform that is user friendly, meets the needs of customers and offers appropriate products, delivery and pick up options for our diverse community.

The right candidate will have at least 5 years' combined experience with e-commerce, marketing and customer service as well as a demonstrated ability to review and assess analytics to evaluate and improve processes. Bachelor's degree in equivalent work experience required. City Market offers a competitive wage and benefits package, product discounts and much more. Apply online today!



More information
and online application at
www.citymarket.com/jobs

The State of Vermont

For the people... the place... the possibilities.

PART-TIME PHYSICIANS

Department for Children and Families – Disability Determination Services

Would you enjoy stable, challenging work on a schedule that meets your needs in a collegial office environment where you use your clinical expertise to provide medical consultation to disability adjudicators?

Are you looking for an opportunity for a new or supplemental part time career outside a clinical setting while expanding your knowledge of unusual, potentially disabling conditions and their treatment?

The Vermont Disability Determination Services is seeking to contract with part-time physicians with current, unrestricted Vermont licensure (M.D. or D.O.) to provide consultation services in review and assessment of medical case files for disability applications.

Training is provided, and the work is performed at the Disability Determination Office in Waterbury, VT on a flexible schedule during regular work hours with no patient care responsibilities.

For details, questions, and application materials, contact DDS Director Trudy Lynn-Hart at 802-241-2464 or Trudy.Lynn-Hart@vtsos.gov

All applications must be received no later than 4:00 PM Friday, January 13, 2017.

For more details regarding the Medical Consultant position go to vermontbusiness.org/jobs.com/5d4exp/5d4Dn35126

The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer and offers an excellent total compensation package.

DENTAL HYGIENIST

We are seeking a dental hygienist with excellent clinical and organizational skills and a warm, engaging personality.

Come join our friendly, dedicated practice. Two three days per week.

Dr. Howard Novak 434-3300
dlnovak@richmondendentalvt.com

**HOWARD
CENTER****MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES****Clinician - Substance Abuse
Chittenden Clinic**

Provide individual, group and family counseling and health home services to persons dependent on opioids as the center of an outpatient opioid treatment program. Seeking applicants with experience counseling clients with co-occurring disorders (individually and in a group setting), knowledge of substance abuse treatment experience and experience preparing high quality clinical documentation. LADC or NCP preferred. Previous experience is essential, as well as ability to collaborate with team members and community resources. Early morning shift. This is a full-time, benefits eligible position with a starting annual salary of \$41,000-50. Must have mental health license eligible or licensed, and those who are already licensed in a mental health discipline will receive an additional \$2,000 to the base pay (prorated for part time positions). **Job ID# 3536**

**Laboratory Technica
Chittenden Clinic**

This part-time position is for a male lab technician. This position requires oversight of urine drug screens at our Burlington location in addition to data entry. Early-evening hours apply (5:05-1:15). The person in this position must possess good communication skills, positive attitude and attention to detail. \$15.00 per hour.
Job Posting #3628

For more information, please visit
howardcentercareers.org.

Howard Center offers an excellent benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, as well as generous paid time off for all regular positions scheduled 20-plus-hours-per-week.

Applicants sending resumes or an accommodation in completing the online applications should feel free to contact Human Resources at 888-6950 or help@hdc.org.

**Northeastern Family Institute**

Providing innovative mental health and educational services to Vermont's children and families

"Make a difference in the life of a child!" NFI Vermont is looking for self-motivated, self-starting, and self-driven individuals to help us expand our team of professionals. Full-time and part-time positions available. Competitive wages, flexible scheduling, and family-oriented culture. Excellent benefits with tuition reimbursement offered for 20 or more hour employees.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR**Wilmington School**

The Arlington School in Wilmington, VT, managed by NFI, is an approved independent school that serves students in grades K-12 who need an alternative setting to traditional high school and may require therapeutic support. We are seeking a collaborative and compassionate leader for our program. The Director is responsible for leading the program, partnering with NFI, community providers and executing the daily management and operations of the school, which includes clinical and educational services. We are looking for a candidate who would enjoy working in a collaborative and community-oriented environment. Candidates must have experience in a clinical or educational setting, working with families, collaborating with community-based teams, and supervising staff. Experience working with options like PBS or a job. Director's Degree in Counseling or Education required. This is an 11 month position with full time, full year salary. NFI offers a generous tuition reimbursement program. We apply clinical and educational skills in a variety of settings and have access to diverse resources in Southern New England. recruitment@nfi.org Location: 12/27/16.

THERAPEUTIC CASE MANAGER**St Albans**

The NFI is seeking experienced program to seeking a therapeutic case manager to provide comprehensive clinical services to youth and families. The ideal candidate would be a flexible, creative, and able to provide trauma informed care while interacting with multi-disciplinary systems. The case manager is responsible for collaborating with teams and families to develop and guide treatment. This includes providing clinical supervision within the NFI network. NFI provides excellent training opportunities, clinical supervision and a comprehensive benefits package. Master's degree in social work, counseling or related field preferred. Local residents and those able to relocate are preferred.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST**St Albans**

Candidates work directly with children and families involved with BCS, who experience multiple system issues, including substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health challenges. Responsibilities include conducting/leading large meetings, training with community service providers, creating treatment plans through collaboration with GPC, and parent education. We are looking for candidates with strong communication and documentation skills, who work well in a team setting. Experience with Family Time Coaching, Family Safety Planning and Family Group Conferencing preferred. Bachelor's degree only or two years' experience in related field required. Please submit cover letter and resume to recruitment@nfi.org.

FOSTER PARENTS AND RESPITE PROVIDERS**Vermont**

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COMMUNITY INTEGRATION SPECIALISTS**Community Based Services**

CBS is committed to improving youth by providing family based treatment through community, therapeutic and community integrated methods. CBS is seeking full-time community integration specialists who are trained team of mental health professionals. Responsibilities include working individually with children and adolescents with mental health challenges both in the community and in their homes. The opportunity in living personal interests/needs in their work is encouraged. Ideal candidates must have a bachelor's degree, be able to work afternoons and evenings hours, have a valid driver's license, and reliable transportation. Please send a cover letter and resume to recruitment@nfi.org.

PROGRAM CLINICIAN FOR CHITTENDEN COUNTY**Diagnostic Assessment Program**

The NFI diagnostic and assessment program (DAP) is seeking a program director to guide a comprehensive trauma informed treatment process. DAP provides DAP to the community based treatment, delivering an appropriate level of mental health supports for children and families within the community. The program director will be responsible for guiding the assessment process, conducting resource interviews, working with a domestic NFI team, completing clinical documentation and working with community partners to coordinate services. This is a full-time position which includes a comprehensive benefits package and multiple training opportunities. A master's degree in social work, mental health and/or psychology is preferred. NFI is an equal opportunity employer. Please send resume and cover letter to recruitment@nfi.org.



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MRI. Did Ben Affleck really have to play two solitary, angry larger-than-life heroes this year? Has an one noticed that tortured intensity isn't really his skill set? Could we give it a rest with the tormented-replicants-type characters in general?

Best Documentary

RK: O.J. Made a movie about the non-union movement, but the far superior work in my book is Jon DeVney's *13th*. Titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed

— the three-hour director's cut — than one second more of *Snatch* *Spand*.

MH: *The Heartman: Winter's War* was a spin-off of the 2012 hit *Snow White and the Huntsman*. You could say it's loosely based on the Snow White legend, only with more fight choreography, double evil queens and no Snow White. None of that made much sense on the screen, either.

Worst Picture

RK: Did it get worse than *After the Light*? If it did, I didn't get the memo. How anybody managed to make such boneheaded baloney out of the stories of these two musical geniuses is beyond me. Let's call it a tie.

MH: Religious faith has inspired many great films, but *God's Not Dead 2* isn't one of them. Was it necessary for this message drama to misrepresent secular culture as hostile and aggressively as it did? Or for the actors to deliver such pitifully wooden performances? I tried to keep an open mind, but this messiness made me long for an artistically compelling defense of Christianity like Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*.

Best Picture

RK: *Manchester by the Sea*, *Half a Million Wars*, *Peterson* and *Moonlight* are all truly great movies (*Peterson* is not), but nothing I saw this year impressed me more than *Mecanical Animals*. Embury won't Tam Fink's second essay into filmmaking doesn't merely fulfill the promise of 2009's *A Single Man*. It establishes the writer-director as an artisan par with Hitchcock, Scorsese or Lynch. Plus, it has Michael Shannon. In 2016, it didn't get better than this.

MH: *Moonlight* is like an unforgettable ballad playing after a summer storm. I really enjoyed the chilly, twisty conceits of *Mecanical Animals* and *Ida* and would love to see dark adult thrillers make a comeback. But my warmer side loved the melancholic, wonder and hope that suffused *Arrival*. I've been rooting for director Denis Villeneuve since *Prisoners*, and he fulfilled his promise with this speculative story that suggests perhaps we should try to communicate with "others" before we attack them.

RK: So, that's a wrap. Best wishes for a happy 2017. Oh, and something to think about as you ring it in with "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest": Yag, the Chinese own that, too. ☺



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slavery, the film makes a convincing argument that slavery is, in fact, alive and well, perpetuated by the country's criminal justice system through mass incarceration. Painful, powerful stuff.

MH: *Agrad*. But as a fan of narratives (rather than music-driven) docs, I was most riveted by all some hours-plus of O.J.: *Made in America*. A tragedy on multiple levels, not just about O.J. but about racism, celebrity and the media, it covers some of the same ground as DeVney and offers historical context for a few of 2016's most scoring events.

Most Disposable Movie Franchise

RK: Is *Zoolander* a franchise? I suppose it doesn't matter. The sequel just so much money nobody would touch a third installment. *Max Steel* was going to be a franchise but tanked so badly there won't even be a sequel. That zero percent rating on *Rotten Tomatoes* probably didn't help. At any rate, I'd rather watch *Zoolander* *Meets Max Steel*

Trends to the End

Cheers to the foodie feats and frenemies that defined 2016

BY HANNAH PALMER EGAN

Looking back on 2016 conjures visions of fake news, reemerged white nationalism, Russian hackers and — love him or hate him — president-elect Donald Trump. All of which is to say, this year has given many Americans reasons aplenty to eat (or drink) their feelings.

Here in Vermont, this dramatic and unusual year around the sun brought a few tasty reasons to celebrate. We could start with the continued proliferation of good coffee. Single-source artisan roasts appeared in new cafes such as Burlington's Oxy Tonics Specialty Coffee, Essex Junction's Nomad Coffee, Stowe's PE Coffee and Montpelier's Tremolo Coffee.

Meanwhile, upscale chefs continued to play with high-end/forshaw cuisine. While I don't lose that concept, Burlington's Monarch & the Millwood, Montpelier's Niche at Rague Antoine Café, Jamaica's Blueberry and Winochick's Goutier Cresser Company all proved that it can be great when executed with precision.

Other restaurants expanded on their strengths, opening all new enterprises around single items. In Shelburne, Anchor's Grill moved across Shelburne Road — then, this summer, took advantage of the empty adjacent space and started serving its house-made ice cream at the Scoop to great fanfare. In Washington County, the gaps from Kane's Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen (broke) their popular burger menu onto a party joint in Northfield and put a food truck on the road.

In Winochick, Park Now Cafe reworked its entire concept around the success of its burger and smoothie menu; in early summer, the casual-to-reconstructed itself Buddy's Famous Burgers.

What did we love, hate and wish we'd never have to see again? Read on for the *Swam Days* open on the grass, the bad and the ugly of eating in Vermont, circa 2016.

Let's start with a little anticlericalism, shall we?

NOT CONVINCED, BUT...

Counter Service Is Cool Now

I'm not sure how I feel about ordering fancy food from someone behind a register. But if it's the only way to access the warm, house-baked rabbit stew hidden inside bettery pastry at White River Junction's Pocomond Pies, TB do it. And I don't mind standing in line if it results in Monarch & the Millwood's obsession-worthy smoked-bluefish sandwich or — during a freezing winter — a steaming bowl of bone broth at newly opened Buns & Buttery + Bar in Montpelier. Sometimes it is nice to just order, pay, sit and eat, without having to talk to a waiter.



BEST MEAT

Barbecue

This was perhaps the best year in memory for smoked meats in Vermont. In June, Chris Seward (formerly of the Lazy Farmer) opened Pork & Pickles BBQ in Essex Junction. Two weeks later came Bonster's BBQ in Milford, where demand for Yvonne Lopez's smoked ribs, pulled pork and meat beef was so robust that he almost immediately exhausted all his local meat sources and had to start bringing in hogs from out of state.

As the year wore on, the meaty wars kept right on simmering. In September, St. Albans' 10th Star Brewing partnered with Smokin' Sam's Bar-B-Q to bring ribs sandwiches and pulled-pork tacos to the drinkers at its bar. This passed the way far Mid River firing, which will open with brews and barbecue elsewhere in town in 2017.

By October, Elmore-based Black Diamond Barbecue & Catering was offering slow-coasted pork, smothering mac and cheese, and craft cocktails at its tiny Montpelier storefront.

Add to that Buck Road BBQ, based in Cabot, the whole-bog rolling smoke shop drive circles around north-central Vermont all summer. Then there's the new 20-ft-long crawler bar and beer stroll shop at Big Purr's BBQ in White River Junction. Carnivores, we've had ourselves a fine year, indeed.



BEST NEW BAR

Drifters

It took a while for Queen City residents to discover Drifters, which opened in the former Psychodiscussion space in the Old North End in June. But slowly word got around that chef-partner Andrew Ryan's inexpensive, ridiculously local fare was worth a visit. From the \$5 cans of Citrus Cider to the house-smoked hovers that appeared in a recent *Swam Days* ramen dinner special, everything on the menu is made from scratch and top-quality. And — most crucially for a neighborhood bar — the fun, laid-back vibe makes you want to stay and stay.

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Best eat at Park & Poole 2014



BEST DO-OVER

Growler Garage

You got to Growler Garage's original, South Burlington location, you had to waddle with traffic on Williston Road and Dorset Street before pulling into a bare-bones storefront that seemed better suited for a car wash or tire shop. You could smoke on patios or peep into the Garage's beer-glass staff guided you to a pint you could love, but if you were actually hungry, you were out of luck.

In July, owner Liana O'Connell packed up shop and moved to 30 Main Street in Burlington, where Nooner's Deli had closed a few months earlier. By October, he'd enlisted Winslow's Our House Buttr to supply food, goosy rice and cheese peppered with herbs of Buffalo chicken (and crowned with an electrifying chicken wing), burgers stacked with everything from pulled pork to cucumber slices, and an array of other dishes from the restaurant's menu of "treated comfort food."

Ample patio seating at the Garage's new location catches summer breezes off the lake, it's an easy walk from downtown. And there's shuffleboard and cornhole, which lead me to my next supper superlative...

FUN TREND

Dining While Gaming

In 2014, Tit's Coffee Arcade and Ale House brought Fun-Mo and pub fare to South Burlington. That bar-arcade, featuring food that was creative, mostly

local and mostly good, closed this past summer. But Tit's owners were onto something, and in 2016, Vermont saw a spate of new businesses fusing food and fun in fresh and exciting ways.

In downtown Burlington, the Archlines opened in March, with its impossible 24-hour drink list and dozens of vintage games, it's a fun spot to hang even if pinball isn't your thing.

Over in Stowe, Sun & Six Inn and Sutter opened doors here in February. While the state-of-the-art bowling lanes and plush, classy lounge are a bigger draw than the food, the hotel's ownership has put effort into crafting fresh finger snacks and noodle bowls that go beyond the usual burgers and dogs.



The Archlines

A mile down Mountain Road, at the path new Field Guide hotel, Pismo local opened with casual snacks and lawn games to fun. In her August review, Suzanne Pedraza raved about chef Justin Forster's cooking, describing the place as "a scrumptious, and silky, success."

TRENDS TO THE END 2016



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Trends to the End BY JEFF



BEST PIZZA

Kingdom Crust

For years, a franchise pizzaer held down the 80, Johnsbury corner where Hastings Street merges with Route 5. When the franchise closed in July, Mike Heath reopened the place as Kingdom Crust. Now everything in the front-tench kitchen is 100 percent GMO-free, the shop's goal is to source 90 percent of its ingredients from in-state producers and to buy organic whenever possible. A 16-inch extra-large cheese pie is still only \$14 and crisp and flaky. And don't get me started on the deliciousness that is the chicken-onion-ranch sandwich.



BEST BURGER

Buffalo Bleu, Cornerstone Burger

In February, Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen opened a burger joint on East Street in Northfield based what is now Good Measure Brewing, which (finally?) opened its dining room earlier this month. Whichever I go to Cornerstone, which is admittedly not often enough, I get the Buffalo Bleu burger. It's a pricey six-ounce Angus (or, for \$3 extra, New England beef) patty, tucked inside a bun with a blue cheese dressing and a mild med of crisp and, dried pickled jalapeños and blue-cheese crumbles. It's awesome, and I'd like to eat one right now.

KUDOS TO

Distilling Vermont's Harvest

Jest a few Vermont growers have cultivated corn grain since the early 1980s. Recently, though, as climate change has brought a trend of warmer, often drier summers, newer farms have planted their fields with wheat, rye, corn, spelt and dry corn. Since 2013, Mad River Distillers has made whiskey and brandy with local corn and apples, respectively. In Barre, Northampton Old Route Two Distillers is growing up to craft whiskey and gin using 100 percent Vermont-grown grains. But the biggest pups go to Cabot's Hooker Mountain Farm Distillery, which opened its tasting room earlier this month. There, farmers Knapton and Carrie Randolph distill spirits from entirely homegrown grains, potatoes, produce and herbs. The open grains double as pig feed, those pigs roost up the fields and redeposit the grains in the soil. How's that for a closed loop?



Mad River Distillers

WISH GRANTED

Casa Aguilera Trading Company

At the market on my final writing day of 2015, I found a year's end plan for 2016: "Will some *degul de Dios* start making authentic — like really authentic — Mexican food in this state?"

I didn't expect an answer.

But in May that angel appeared in the form of Manuel Aguilera, who opened Casa Aguilera Trading Company in St. Johnsbury. The SoCal native had been selling homegrown salsa and chips around the Upper Valley since 2014, and when he moved to the Kingdom, he went all-in on a permanent location.

At Aguilera's Eastern Avenue eatery, the tortilla chips are thin and crispy, the melted tomatillo crumble before giving way to chile-ringed crumbled chorizo. Palm-size tacos arrive in sets of three and are street-food simple: One day this summer, I sampled orange-marinated cubed pork that had been flash-fried and then scattered with cilantro and diced onion, with salsa and spicy pickled veggies on the side.



Casa Aguilera Trading Company

Using his mother's homestyle Mexican cooking as a point of departure, Aguilera makes everything in-house, from the long-simmered mole in a warty chicken stew to the fruity agave frescos that cool the heat of a summer day.

Consider also the excellent north-of-the-border snacks from Randolph-based food truck *Ana's Mexican*. Loscheta, the Cuban fire at Harbick's Thomas 302, the Salvadoran fajas at Harbick's Kaperana Restaurant, and the local, organic heirloom-corn tortillas from All Seeds Tortilleria and Vermont Tortilla Company, and 2016 starts to look very promising when it comes to Latin American eats.



Harbick's Kaperana

BIGGEST BUMMER

Taverna Khione Has Closed

From the list stocked with delicate Greek wines to the fire and rustic handmade pasta to the slow-cooked lamb scattered with herbs just picked from the kitchen garden, I loved *Shelburne's Taverna Khione*. In 2015, I loved it enough to name chef Marc Provencher the year's best new Vermont chef. Provencher's food was bold and daring — though sometimes imperfect — and his restaurant was distinct and unforgettable and a sea of restaurants serving burgers, rice and cheese, and potatoes.

In an email earlier this month, Provencher seemed to attribute *Taverna's* late-fall closure to location. He may have a point: The former Café *Shelburne* spot, just south of Shelburne Village, was just too far off the road to visit that often. But Provencher has vowed to return as a new location. "I've been supporting *Gracie* with my restaurants for the last 10 years and will continue to do so in 2017," he wrote, then added that he'll "revamp the next plans [for] the *Taverna*" just as soon as he sells the space at 3735 Shelburne Road.

Which begs my next question. Anyone looking to open a restaurant in Shelburne?



Matt Sargent



Jo Szwarc

VERMONT'S LOSS — BOSTON'S GAIN

Phantom

In January, carpenter-cum-chef Matt Sargent and his wife, Nancy, closed their quirky Winfield restaurant, *Phantom*, after about a year in business. Within months, they'll add plans to reopen — under the name Brewer's Tap & Table — with co-owner Joe Szwarc in a sprawling former factory in Waltham, Mass., about 30 minutes outside Boston. That restaurant opened in November with 48 craft beers on tap, big burgers and confetti such as barbecued quail. That's cool — for them, it pays.

TOLD YA SO

A Cuisine

I won't claim to have the audacity to predict a restaurant's doom before it opens. And I have deep respect for Randy Kong, whose Asian Noodle Shop has been a downtown staple for years. But if you're going to open a conveyor-belt sushi restaurant (where diners belly up to a bar and grab dishes as they glide by), maybe don't do it in the beleaguered Burlington Town Center mall, a spot tourists pass without noticing and locals avoidously avoid.

THANKS TO THE END PAGE





Na Ghin Jung!

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Trends to the End by PSI

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NATURAL WONDER

Saffron

University of Vermont researchers are growing saffron in a greenhouse in St. Albans. With a market value of about \$20 per gram, the crop could bring farmers up to \$100,000 per acre. How cool is that?

Burlington art space installed George Lamberton in the back of the house and crowned him with broad creative freedom. Since then, the high-strung, often restless chef has transformed his kitchen into a multipurpose, multitasking accident in culinary boredom.

Early this year, Lamberton switched from a mostly static menu to a daily-changing bill of fare inspired by a few approachable standbys (popcorn chicken, a fantastic burger). Which means the Sichuan raw-beef salad you find one day may give way to blistered mackerel with pork belly and potatoes the next.

This spring, noted chef Jean-Luc Matton joined the galley. His skills and ideas have mingled with Lamberton's in a cool and exciting

KITCHEN MVP

George Lamberton, Artsklot

When it comes to food service, Artsklot has branched through more than a few business models. But in late 2014, the

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George Lamberbauer

synergy that F&G saw, neither chef could have predicted.

By summer, Lamberbauer had added a food truck to the enterprise and parked it on Pine Street during weekday lunch hours. The truck's fried-chicken sandwiches and malden have rounded out the collective menu offered by the growing lineup of mobile eateries that have taken up summer residence in the area since Art's Hot launched its Friday Truck Stops in 2013.

Finally, on November 8, the kitchen branched its "bubble-down" early evening specials — order one, get two on select beers and snacks — which may be the only good thing that come out of Election Day.



Toggy Goggle Inn

EMERGENT DINING DESTINATION

East Burke

Let's be clear: East Burke was not blessed with a half dozen tantalizing new openings in this year alone. The tiny mountain town (no sheep) had a solid village core, centered on the Northeast Kingdom Country Store (great sandwiches and tobacco) and the Pub Outback. But the past few years have brought some great culinary color to town.

In 2013, the Pub became the Burke Public House, where a member Vermont beer bar compliments

well-crafted license plates such as chocolate-cherry postcard with night-tinged gray. That same year, Mike's Tiki Bar opened behind the pub, and I've yet to find a Vermont bar I enjoy more. I can't complain about the food from the Vermont Food Truck Company, which summers next to the bar, either.

2005 brought Toggy Goggle Osteria's name Italian food and pizza, courtesy of former Trout River Brewing owner Dan Gots. The 2016 addition of Café Loni (pastas, cold-ones) and Aerie Bee Bee's Homestead Vt Raised Goods have breakfast covered, and the mountain has gained two new venues, too.

So now you can head to Burke, grab an amazing cup of coffee and a pastry on your way to the slopes, and have several solid dinner options when you're finished from a day of skiing.

Also it's snowing ☺

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Rhythm of the Night

In the Bantu language of the Shona, *Kigumbira* means "new home."

It is also the title of Cirque Mother Africa's high-energy stage show set to hit the Flynn Meadows. World-class performing artists from seven African

nations including Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe carry out this rhythmic exploration of the daily battle and battle of the South African township. Through thunderous percussion, jaw-dropping acrobatics, eye-popping costumes, and a combination of traditional movement and modern break dancing, *Kigumbira* exudes the positive energy and hopeful spirit of its homeland.

CIRQUE MOTHER AFRICA

Tuesday, January 3, 7:30 p.m. at Flynn Meadows in Burlington \$26-35 Info: 802-554-4964 flynmeads.org

JAN. 3 | THEATER

Integrating with the First Night tradition of a substance-free celebration focused on the arts, both St. Johnsbury and Burlington welcome the Year of the Rooster couple with full menus of family-friendly entertainment.

For the 34th year, St. Johnsbury hosts the Northeast Kingdom's largest showcase of the arts. While the newly seasonal First Night North at St. Johnsbury offers nearly 100 shows by 140 performers ranging from comics and

storytellers to poets and puppeteers, music is the main attraction. Folk, rock, jazz, bluegrass, country, classical and pop featuring out-country of players such as Kingdom All Stars, Middleboro, Rob Aron & Constant Cramling, and Trish and Wolf. Though the show on December 31 is almost certain to be chilly, temperatures rise when Phoenix Center light the night with an extraordinary outdoor fire show.

Over in the Queen City, the young and the young at heart can be a part of First Night Burlington, the longest-running New Year's Eve celebration of its kind in the country. Kid-friendly features include performing arts chosen, music,

media, highly-dying units by Circus Boonies and short films presented by Vermont International Film Foundation. Grow-ups can get into the groove with live music at venues all across the city's downtown area. Jazz fans, take note: Vermont's nationally known pop-jazz quartet Killamington makes its rare Green Mountain State appearance at Flynn Meadows. Finally, follow us a novel in the first moments of 2007 with a midnight fireworks display on Church Street. Happy New Year!

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON

Saturday, December 30, 11 a.m. midnight, at various downtown Burlington locations. \$5-40 First Night Bulletin: firstnightvt.org, 800-851-4400. Inquire: additional \$1 tickets. Info: 802-470-0100. firstnightburlington.com

Quite a Character

Character Gordon Ashbery has found his way into the heart of writer Xu Xi's novel. Now he is at the center of the Hong Kong author's 2006 work of fiction *That Man in Our Lives*. When Gordon, who has a penchant for all things Chinese, goes missing, a colorful cast of characters tries to track him down. The result is a story that Publishers Weekly writes "demonstrates the far-reaching effects of politics and culture on the smallest, most personal aspects of our lives."

The novelist and essayist shares her gift for words at a public reading as part of Vermont College of Fine Arts' MFA in Writing winter residency.

DEC. 31 | WORDS

XU XI

Saturday, December 30, 7:30 p.m. at College Hall Chapel Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier Free Info: 818-0000 vcol.edu



Photo: Tim O'Connell

IN WITH THE NEW YEAR



Photo: Linda Johnson

Photo: Bob O'Connell

Photo: Bob O'Connell

Photo: Bob O'Connell

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JAN. 7 Chad Hollister
JAN. 13, 14 Rich Ortiz
JAN. 20 Danielle Miraglia
JAN. 21 Chad Hollister
JAN. 27, 28 Auburn Mode

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5:00 pm Central Vermont Recreational Club New Year's Eve Fund Race
6:30 pm Montpelier Maple Show (45 Minutes)
5:15-7:00pm Montpelier Hydration Show (1.1/4 hours)
7:30pm Hinesville Show!

For more info: www.MontpelierAlive.com

TABLE 1 (continued)

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TUE 10 & 11P

classes

WARM UP! See WED 10 & 7 p.m.

Acupuncture & Fitness

ACUPUNCTURE TALK & Q&A Join our friends at the Vermont Acupuncture Institute for a talk and Q&A session. The event will be held at the Vermont Acupuncture Institute, 245-214 Main, 11th fl., 310-414 Main, 11th fl., 310-414 Main. See WED 10 & 7 p.m.

WARMUP FITNESS BOAT CAMP

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

CLEAR THE TROUBLESHOOTER KIDNAPING TALK

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

DE TROUBLE TALK

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

FITNESS AT ANY AGE

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

PLACEFUL WARMUP KIDNAPING

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

DANCE & WITH ALLISON

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

Kids

CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING FILM SOCIETY Hosted by the Vermont Children's Film Society, this series of films is designed to help children understand the world around them. See WED 10 & 7 p.m.

FAMILY YOGA ONLINE

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

LOST CHALLENGE

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

PREDATOR STORY HOUR

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

PREDATOR STORY HOUR

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

SPARKER MUSICAL KIDS

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

Language

ENGLISH LEVEL 1 SPANISH CLASS See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

LA CLASSE FRENCH CONVERSATION See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

FRANCE-ENGLISH CONVERSATION See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

Music

MUSICAL GARDEN SOCIETY AUDITION

See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

OPEN JAM SESSION See TUE 10 & 7 p.m.

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WED.11

Business

BAGAT GALEN WITHDRAWAL CREDIT MARKETPLACE

See WED 11 & 8 p.m.

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POSITIVE SPINS

The local music scene weighs in on the best music of 2016

BY DAN ROLLES

When you want to know what music you should listen to, it's wise to turn to the folks who make the music you love and see what they're into. So, we asked some doyens of Vermont's music community to share their picks for the best local and national music of 2016. And since this year has been depressing *AF* on so many levels, we also asked them to recommend a song from any year that gives them solace, comfort or hope. Here's what they told us: ☺

Mister Burns,

the Lyngbyes Divisions
LOCAL ALBUM *Gang of Y'allers, Burn to Be Local*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Mixtape Art, The Falling Season*
SONG Pink, "Looking Too Closely"

Britt Shorter,

Section Sign Records
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Craig Mitchell,

G.I. Planet 95.7 Operation Prince
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Sarah Matthews,

Point Society
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Tim Lewis,

Terri Temple Records
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Caroline O'Connor,

Steady Betty Music/Songwriter
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Mark Daly,

Modulo
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"

Justus Gaston,

Sad Turtle: the Mountain Says No
LOCAL ALBUM *Da Capo, Da Capo*
NATIONAL ALBUM *Cardinal*
SONG Whitney, "No Matter Where We Go"





Back to the Future: 2017 Local Music Predictions

The close of a year is a natural time for reflection. It is also a time to look ahead. So, as has become Soundbites tradition, let's gaze into the crystal disco ball and get a feel for what's in store for the Vermont music scene in 2017.

Important note: These predictions, while they may be loosely based on a nugget of reality, are not meant to be taken seriously in any way, shape or form. In the many years we've been running this bit, not a single one of our prognostications has come true. Why? Because these are jokes, people. With that in mind...

Social scientists declare New Year's Day 2017 as the most longpower day in Vermont history. The working theory is that New Year's Eve revelers, following a year beset with all manner of cultural and political tragedy, drawn their frustration in an excess of booze to an unprecedented degree.

"How is it fair that DONALD TRUMP is still alive but we lost Prince, Bowie, LINDSEY LOHAN and ALAN TINKER?" says one obviously buzzed participant in Nectar's in Burlington, where the **RAMBLADE** grounds and local **EMULATORS** are playing a bash dubbed "Alan Tinker's & A Cascade New Year's Disco Party." "Pack

2016," he continues tearfully, before embracing himself to wince.

At the Higher Ground Ballroom, local psych-pop phenoms **MADAILA** not only will out their two-eight NTE party, "The Secret," they oversell it. By a lot. HD co-conspirators **SLAMMING** and **AUS** instinctively consciously ignore the club's capacity limits as thousands descend on the South Burlington venue and drink every last drop of booze on the premises.

"After the way this year went, who cares?" says Newman of their besotted defiance of the fire code. "Smile 'em if you got 'em," he continues, lighting a joint by the back bar. Then, staring at a

far-off point in the distance, he mutters, "Alan Tinker, man."

Leading up to the Madaila shows, there had been a rampant speculation about just what, exactly, was the band's big secret. New songs? Maybe some new members? Another band name change? As it turns out, the *Secret* is the name of a new ultrafreakin' underground news zine published by keyboardist and outspoken political activist **BRICKMAKER**.

"You just can't trust any major media outlets right now to be as virulently left-wing as the times demand," he explains. "Also, I think this is what Alan Tinker would have wanted."

On Friday, January 6, in Washington, D.C., the United States Congress vows the presidential election of Donald Trump. In a shocking turn, lawmakers cite a litany of grave concerns about Trump, ranging from his insurmountable financial conflicts of interest to increasing evidence of Russian influence on the election to his general douchebaggery.

"The gay really is a fucking clown," says Sen. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ). "And I know from adults. After all, I once chose **SARAH PALIN** to be my running mate."

In Burlington, local protest punk duo **NEED**, who formed in direct response to Trump's presumed presidency, announce they are retiring.

"I think our work here is done," says front man **TYNAN HARRIS**, dusting off his hands. He hints at a new band in the works, **VERMONT**.

In April, exactly one year after local DJ and rapper **BRASS MONSIEUR** — aka **BR** — passed, his old group, the **ARTIST**, releases

SLAMMING: JEFF



HIGHER GROUND

2 0

MADAILA

THE SECRET

1 7

THE NIGHTS

FRI 12.30

A

SAT 12.31

THE SECRET

12.31 - 1.00 AM

12.31 - 1.00 AM

THU 12.30

MADAILA

12.30 - 1.00 AM

SAT 12.31

New Queens Eve

WED 1.11

Days

1.11 - 1.00 AM

SAT 1.14

Laurie Barker

1.14 - 1.00 AM

SAT 1.14

Dead Sessions

TUE 1.17

Danish

1.17 - 1.00 AM

FRI 1.20

Brickdrop, Swimmer

1.20 - 1.00 AM

SAT 1.21

Rocketfuel

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Positive Spins 6 PM

Ben Chugg, Little Sagger
LA: Gang of Thieves, Born to Be Loud
MA: Phil, Consciousness
CT: Eric Buchanan, "Merry"

Dan Smith, CBR&ME, Tyler Daniel Band
LA: Nashville, White Hair
MA: Kevlarite, Nutsydog
CT: James Vincent McMorrow, "I Lie Awake Every Night"

Brian Nagle, Good Phunties, Working Wonders
LA: Roxana Schler, Sports & M&M
MA: Soap & the Sunsets, Made Baby
MO: Marvin Gray, "Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Howl)"

Michael Roberts, Wooden Cucumber
LA: Sam Moss, Fable
MA: William Tyler, Modern Country
CT: Hiss Golden Messenger, "Heart Like a Lion"

Brian Mital, Heretic
LA: Seth Yacovone, Marvel Down, Mafaka, Thems, Kat Wright, *My Side of a Tribe Called Quest*, *We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*
CT: No particular song, but the music of *New Orleans* radio station WWOZ (90.7) FM, Bill Dickey and John's midwest have pushed me through this year

Jeremy Gartner, Sed Turle, Savage Her, Burning Blank
LA: Barakid, Blood From the Lion's Mouth
MA: Mississippi, The Violent Sleep of Reason
CT: The Dillinger Escape Plan, "Lamentor Death", Tom, "Kosmos"

Matthew Hastings, We Scrum
LA: Wren Kitt, For Evelyn
MA: Daniel Lanois, Goodbye to Language
CT: Pauline O'Rourke, Stuart Dempster and Porcupine, "Laser"

Jason Cooley, Blue Future, Benno Schitz
LA: Bullets of Oak, Postcard
MA: Car Seat Headrest, Thems of Desail
CT: Benoit Lippert, "Les Fleurs"

Tyler Daniel Bean, Doan Service, Public Society, Screaming Bird
LA: Wren Kitt, For Evelyn, The Path, Our Casuar Tree
MA: John S. Benson, Winter Wheat
CT: Land of Talk, "It's Okay"

Forrest Brandt, Public Society, the Boonies
LA: Apartment 3, Apartment 1
MA: Cass McCombs, Many Love
CT: Frequent Counts, "Outside"

Ben Cobane, Doan Service
LA: Get a Grip, Endless
MA: Every Time I See, Low Tiers
CT: Hot Water Music, "Drug My Body"

Bryan Parmelee, insurance producer
LA: Snake Root & Steph Hinchey, All Difficult/Travels EP
MA: Radachard, A Moon Shaped Pool
CT: Sushka, "Plastic 100%"

Matthew Hagen, Savage Her, the Highbeats
LA: Kat Wright, *My Side of a Tribe Called Quest*
MA: Benno Moss, J&K Magic
CT: Bina Rose, "1/1"

Reuben Jackson, Nocturne
LA: "Friday Night Zoo", Vermont Public Radio
MA: Kat Wright, *My Side of a Tribe Called Quest*, *We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*
CT: A Tribe Called Quest, "Melatonin"

Charlie Frazier, Blue for Toronto, 105.1 WGBH
LA: Dave Kier, Right Back Atcha, Seth Yacovone Band, Shovel Dawn
MA: Toluca Tracks Band, Let Me Get By
CT: Anything from Michael, Headly Metal

Abbie Morin, singer-songwriter
LA: Henry Jenkins, The Rains
MA: This & the Get Down Stay Down, A Man Alive
CT: Baby Dicks, "I Don't Wanna Be Penny Anyones"

Ian Senesac, Chris Swift, Tyler Daniel Band
LA: Laupa, Engage
MA: Esquivado, A Means to No End
CT: Tyler Daniel Bean, "Year of the Snake"

Dave Keller, Dave Keller Band
LA: Bombcast, "I'm the Neighbor's Shout"
MA: William Bell, This & Where I Live
CT: Doyle Bramhall II, "Mama Can't Help You"

Gary Lee Miller, contributing writer, Seven Seas
LA: Kelly Rowland, *Emancipate*
MA: Lydia Loveless, *Lead*
CT: Rob Dylán, "Visions of Johnson"

Brian Clark, Anarchist
LA: Kelly Rowland, *Emancipate*
MA: Twin Peaks, *Doves in Mayhem*
CT: Public Enemy, "Fight the Power"

Alex Badney, Nectar, Seth Yacovone Band
LA: The High Beats, *Dropoff Off With... the High Beats*, *Sea Turtle*, *Barkless & Toothless*
MA: Aaron Neville, *Apache*
CT: Rolling Stones/Gil and the Wey, "Wild Horses"

Matthew Hall, Benno Moss, Comrade Nixon
LA: Phoenix Dark, Cashmere Phantom
MA: S. Aryan, *Slow Lane*
CT: Catherine Warwick, "Polymers (I Behave as You)"

Kyle Thompson, DJ Fette 8
LA: Kat Wright, *My Side of a Tribe Called Quest*, *We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*
CT: Prince, "Purple Rain"

Matt Harpster, guitarist
LA: Sed Turle, *Barkless & Toothless*
MA: Esperanza Spalding, *Kidney D-Extension*
CT: Get Stevens, "Peace Train"

André Maquera, West Coast Digits
LA: Ben Folds, The Chemistry
MA: Jeff Buckley, *Love Letter*
CT: Bill Beck, "Right Now"

Eric Maier, Medicine Future Fields
LA: Wilco, *Show Up Late*
MA: Childhood Gambina, *Amorim, My Love*
CT: PWR BTTM, "West Texas"

LIVE culture
ARTS NEWS + VIEWS

For up-to-the-minute news about the local music scene, follow @liveculturevt and @yodelmont on Twitter or read the Live Culture blog: www.yodelmont.com/liveculture

SOUND*bites*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38



a new album in his honor as the **ARTIST ISSUE**. The record is largely based in Morris's own writings and on his unique DJ style. It is widely regarded as the best hip-hop album ever made in Vermont. There's actually no joke here: Egan's not to hear that album.

Finally, in September, Burlington city officials unveiled an ambitious plan to restore the decrepit Memorial Auditorium. The plans include renovating the gymnasium into a legitimate multiuse space for sporting events and major concerts, as well as upgrades for beloved basement punk club 242 Mtn.

Additionally, the city announces that the local nonprofit Big Huey World will serve as the city's official music office. Among the organization's new James B. executive, M2 Music.

"That's pretty neat," says BHW founder [@404ERROR](#). "I had only been performing the rite for Big Huey to be the music office fox, like, 20 years. Man, now I'm in!"

Throughout its 30-year history, 242 Main had bounced around from one city department to another. Most recently, the club operated under the watch of the Fletcher Free Library.

"That didn't make sense, even to us," says a library representative of being tasked with managing 243. "Why would you put people who 'stuck' other people for a living in charge of the least resources in the city?"

A Fond Farewell

Last but not least, it is with a sense of excitement and sadness that I announce

that this translates culture will be my last. After nearly 10 years serving as *Seven Days'* music editor, I am moving on to a new position at the company and handing the Music Guy script to our current assistant music editor, **JORDAN ABRAHL**.

It has been a distinct pleasure and privilege to occupy this chair in what I genuinely believe to be the most dynamic and exciting period in the history of Vermont music. The exponential degree to which the scene has grown and evolved over the past decade is astonishing. That's credit to the innumerable talented, visionary and passionate people who make the scene go—musicians, club owners, promoters, and fans alike. I feel honored to have been able to tell their stories and share their music with you.

State and local governments

My passion for local music has not diminished. If anything, it's only deepened since I took this gig. But after almost a decade, I increasingly find that I would like to tell other stories, too. And, to be perfectly honest, a part of me is giddy over the notion of simply being a fan again. After all, that's how I fell in love with local music to begin with.

At this point you might be wondering, What's next, Don? Great question.

For myself, the short answer is this: I don't know, exactly — though I'm staying at 7D. In the short term, I'll explore some other interests — sports, comedy and social activism, to name a few. I expect that over time those interests will expand and evolve into new areas. One of my favorite aspects

of being the music editor has been how it's exposed me to music: I might not otherwise have sought out *The Job* has a way of broadening your horizons.

I imagine that will be true of my new role, as well. But you'll still see my byline in minor stories occasionally. I mean, somebody has to write the fake national interviews, right?

As for the music section, I'm leaving it in good hands: Jordan is smart, talented, ambitious and dedicated. I think the local scene will benefit from his voice and perspective. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't leave the position. I'm keenly aware of the role the 70 music editor plays in the music community. I feel a personal stake in each new song, no exception or otherwise.

This last 10 years have been genuinely transformative for me. I've grown to a writer and a person in ways I wouldn't have dreamed possible. I've been able to interview some of the most influential and famous musicians in the world. And I've covered many more who work in relative obscurity. I've fallen in love with bands, people and places. I've craved over the loss of dear friends in our close-knit music community. I've laughed, a lot. In short, I have taken more from this job than I could ever imagine. It's been a hell of a run, and I can only hope that you've enjoyed it half as much as I have.

Thanks for reading. ☺



Listening In

A peek at what was on my iPod, formidable, eight-track player, in this year. For now I've only got one Spotify for Windows playlist with tunes by artists featured in the movie, so here:

FORGOTTEN, Cardinal
SMALL BUSINESS, Mykissman
MARSH PRIDE, Midwest Kentucky
Daughter
WANT WASH, The Party
A THREE CHAIRS DANCE, We Got It
From Home ... Think You 4 Hour
Savage

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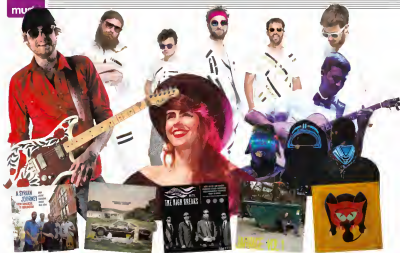
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Imperfect 10

Recapping the best Vermont-made music of 2016

BY DAN ROLLES

Here's a dirty little secret: There is no such thing as pure objectivity in arts criticism. Oh, sure, that's the ideal, and something every decent critic, regardless of field, strives to attain. But we're all ultimately products of our own tastes, biases and perspectives, no matter how much we try to suppress them in the service of neutrality. Nowhere is this more evident than in the year-end best-of list.

Tradition dictates that I choose the 10 "best" Vermont recordings of 2016. But here's the problem: That's an impossible task — especially given the brilliant variety and sheer volume of excellent music made in the Green Mountain State over the past 12 months. You could make many lists of 10 great albums and present a compelling case for each.

But choose I must. So, here are 10 albums that spoke to me for any number of reasons and stood out as representing the best Vermont had to offer in 2016. But, as you are about to read, they are not the only deserving candidates.

As always, the local rock scene served as a barometer for the health of the music community at large. And a number of newer acts made their mark, suggesting that the immediate future is in good hands.

Among them, **LITTLE BURGERS** longed for perfect days with nostalgic pop bliss. With two EPs, two toured forthcoming albums — and last year's The Procrastinators, grungy **SAB THURTELL** were real flames with indie jungle **MONDRIAN** gave out a steady glow on sounds and stories **LAURENCE DUBOIS** were both lo-fi and indie and crush-worthy **ORANGE JULIAN** became an object of our affection, **SEASIDE** were, in fact, adorable and quirky **BARBERSHOP** riled up the neighbors.

Not that our silver friends were resting on their laurels. Punk-rockers **GANG OF THIRTEEN** loudly claimed their birthright. Indie vets **WASHBURN** discovered their soul in the lost and found. The **MAN LAMBERT** returned, after an extended hiatus, as colorful as ever.

With **VILLANELLES**, whose indie-rock hearts are still blue, **WASHBURN** built this city on pop. **BURGERS** quoted snippets with smart puns. **BARBERSHOP** and **THE WASHBURN** made us hungry for punk chops. **WASHBURN** indie-rock project artists were cult-favorites as an anonymous debut, **MONDRIAN** showed did a body good with a sporty jazz. **SEASIDE** gave deep **LAURENCE** got down, as indie punk do. In the Upper Valley, **CANYON** learned in modern comfort and dissonance. And **ORANGE** and **THE DUBOIS** grew up, at least a little.

The closing of 2016 Main dealt the honey-music scene a blow. But you'd never know it by the amount of great punk, metal and hardcore records that sounded our ears. Metal heroes **BARBERSHOP**

THE TOP 10 VERMONT RECORDINGS OF 2016

MADAILA, *Traces*

KAT WRIGHT, *By My Side*

KELLY RAVIN, *Bonneville*

GRUP ANWAR, *A Syrian Journey: From Damascus to Burlington*

THE DUPONT BROTHERS, *A Riddle for You*

MATTED PALMER, *Embers*

THE HIGH BREAKS, *Droppin' Off With... the High Breaks*

WOODEN DINOSAUR, *Working Weather*

TSUNAMIBOTS, *e • e Crushing*

JARV, *Jarvage Vol. I*

round. Hardcore phonics **TSUNAMIBOTS** caught up. **WOODEN DINOSAUR** found sincerity. **SCOTCHMAN** made a howl on cross-country collaboration. **ANNE SUMNER** delivered a pretty prophetic **WARRIOR** who smeared local love. **VICTIMS OF CARP** went long. **ARTIST THINGS** got weird, in a good way. And **TRAVIS BASS** **WAS** soothed our drink-add dogs.

Heavy music was revitalized across the 'bino, too, thanks largely to new punk label **Bar Pilot Records**. The **Plutobrother**, **NY**, inspired gave us swirling, rock offerings from **WARRIOR**, **COMING AND GOING**, and more are on the way. Unaffiliated with that label but also from the Lake City, **GRUP ANWAR** turned out to be nice guys with really loud guitars.

For local hip-hop, 2016 was both fascinating and tragic. The untimely passing of rapper and DJ **EVAN MORRIS**, also we, devastated the community. Released days after he left the building, EP's final album with **ANNE SUMNER** revealed a profound wealth of burgeoning artistic talent and promise. In a similar way, a tribute compilation to the late, great DJ **A-BOT** offered both comfort and incredible music.

Legions were heavyweights. **UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES** proved graceful for their existence, even amid doubt over how much longer they'll exist. Fortunately, a righteous solo effort from LC co-founder **MATT ANWAR** suggests that the 14's puns are nearly the sum of their whole. Another scene vet, **ALUMINUM**, made a moving statement on his solo debut.

Newcomers were plentiful in the 2017 first year. **WAS** deemed big. **WARRIOR** went surreal. **AND BE** cut deep. **WAS** was the star. **DEFEND** the Green Mountain sound. Producer **CHART** turned up with heavy hitters from afar. Another producer, **SHAROTON**, sought the American dream — and gave to an EP with soul since **STEPHAN HENRY**.

It was a comparatively quiet year from the American folk. But the quality of local twang more than made up for less quantity. **EASTERN MOUNTAIN TIME** brought it all home. **DAVID ROSS** and **THE DOCKERS** put a bit of the city in the country. **BLUE BOY** got blue. **CROCKET BLUE** got mythological. **DAN JOHNSON** was magic. **DAVID HENRY** & **MARE LEBLANC** turned demons and tigers. **BON TRAY** stripped down. And **BARBARA** was kept pickin' and groovin'.

In jazz, soul and blues, **TYLER MAEST** & **WARRIOR** introduced us to "terragrass" **COULD** have crashed the world with their own any grooves. Experimental ensemble the **WAS** boogied down. Chameleon **TURNER PERRY** left the class-jazz love. And **DAVE KELLY** came back better than ever with a soulful, and soul-affirming, gem.

Old friends in new places remind us that you can always come home again. Fabled songwriter **SAM HENRY** proved as inspired as ever. **PERCUTANER** and **BARBARA** took notes from the field. **ALUMINUM** got hurt and said goodbye. **ALUMINUM** continue to show brightly. **TURNER PERRY** gave to good news. And **THE KIDS** demonstrated that sharing truly is caring. ☺



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remains the larger number of America's relationships with one
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SEED - THE UNTOUCHED STORY (US 2014)
*This film follows passionate seed keepers from around the world, protecting local legacies as
biotech chemical companies control and commodify the majority of our seeds.
"Reminds the journey in learning through its smallest elements: the seed." (LA Times)*

WINE AT SEA (Italy 2014)
*Lampedusa has become a major entry point for African migrants into Europe — thousands
are trying to survive the crossing from Africa in boats too small for such a journey.
"Not the documentary you'd expect about the migrant crisis — it's better!" (E! News)*

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FILE (L) ANDERS PARKER AND CLOUD BADGE (JULY ROCK)

North Star

ANDERS PARKER recently returned to his adoptive home of Burlington after living in one of the most isolated places on Earth, the town of Alvert in Canada's Northern province. Since the mid-2000s, he's recorded his barby, country-fused st-rock under his own name after formerly performing in bands Versalife and Apone Needle. Parker's most recent album, *There's a Blue Bird in My Heart*, is an unbridled, raucous masterpiece. His live band, **GLASS BARK**, features local drummer Steve Huleka of Seth Yarrowee Band and arctic-guitar craftsman Cristian Lee. Check out Anders Parker and Cloud Badge on Friday, January 6, at ArtRock in Burlington, with local acts **WILLOWWINDS**.

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VERMONT COUNTRY CLUB

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10 p.m. Free

WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
outside vermont
THE SKYLINE PARKING
(singer) Wine&Dine&Drinks,
Burlington

MON.2

burlington
LIGHT CLUB LAMP SHOP Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

chittenden county
BACKSTAGE PUB Open till
11:30 p.m., Free
WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

barre/montpelier
CHARLIE'S WORLD FAMOUS
Live 8:30 p.m., Free

stowe/jefferson
HIGHWAY 100 Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free

northeast kingdom
PHAT GET'S DOWN Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free

TUE.3

burlington
THE GARDEN PIA TIA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

chittenden county
ON THE RAMP Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

barre/montpelier
CHARLIE'S WORLD FAMOUS
Live 8:30 p.m., Free
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

middlebury area
TWO BROTHERS TALKING
Live 8:30 p.m., Free
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

WED.4

burlington
WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

chittenden county
BACKSTAGE PUB Open till
11:30 p.m., Free
WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

barre/montpelier
CHARLIE'S WORLD FAMOUS
Live 8:30 p.m., Free

stowe/jefferson
HIGHWAY 100 Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free
WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

northeast kingdom
PHAT GET'S DOWN Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

chittenden county
ON THE RAMP Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

THU.5

burlington
WINTER RELEASE: Kelly Davis
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

middlebury area
TWO BROTHERS TALKING
Live 8:30 p.m., Free
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

barre/montpelier
CHARLIE'S WORLD FAMOUS
Live 8:30 p.m., Free

stowe/jefferson
HIGHWAY 100 Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free

northeast kingdom
PHAT GET'S DOWN Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free

chittenden county
ON THE RAMP Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

barre/montpelier
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middlebury area
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Live 8:30 p.m., Free
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(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

northeast kingdom
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(singer) 8:30 p.m., Free
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

chittenden county
ON THE RAMP Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington
LA PUERTA HERREA Live
(singer) 8:30 p.m., Burlington

OUR 34TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



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Seeing Was Believing

Our favorite art exhibitions of 2016

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES, PAMELA POLSTON & SAGIE WILLIAMS

Visuals have no shortage of artists or art exhibits—in fact, it's only slight hyperbole to say that original work is on display whenever there are walls throughout the state. Granted, we can't see every exhibit. But collectively, the arts writers of *Seven Days* bear witness to a great deal of creative output over a year. While we admired many others, here are our subjective favorites from 2016's crop. ☺

'Intimacy + Materiality'

Helen Sey Art Center, Maine
January 22 to April 30
helensey.com

Curator Rachel Moore has presented quite a few notable exhibitions this year — the bold, athletic works of Pat Steir come to mind. But the group exhibit "Intimacy + Materiality" is



Detail of "Period (Helen Kneary)" by Katherine Johnson



Detail of "Grief" by Rachel Cohen

meditation on textiles and associated concepts of femininity and labor, was particularly visually and intellectually compelling. From the suggestively gloomy, pink tapestry wall sculpture "It's Not That Simple," by Burlington-based Wyke Sells Green to the biomorphic-crochet sculpture "Pelt" by Brooklyn artist Emily Barletta, the works employed traditionally female textile techniques to create strong visual narratives. As Rachel Elizabeth Jones wrote in her review, Moore deftly used the audience "to express deeper connections — in this case, between fiber and femininity."

S.M.

'Dysfunction'

BCA Center, Burlington, January 22 to April 6
burlingtoncityarts.com

This exhibition of contemporary ceramic works pushed against definitions of fine art and craft, and even challenged "restrictive habits of categorization in a larger sense," Rachel Elizabeth Jones wrote in her review. In addition, each of the 10 artists put forth individual agendas in their work. The most overtly political pieces were by Roberto Lago and Jessica Putnam Phillips. Philadelphia-born Lago teaches ceramics at Marlboro College and describes himself as a rapper, poet, activist and educator. Nearly all of those roles come through in his upcoming works, such as "Black Containes Voice," featuring black and white historical figures. Putnam Phillips' wall-hung ceramic plates, meanwhile, explored the intersection of gender and modern warfare. These and other remarkable works found a balance between playfulness and gravity and, without diminishing the legitimacy of traditional pottery, gave us a broader experience of the age-old medium.

P.P.



"Things Not Forgotten" by Jessica Putnam Phillips



Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley's glass plate artwork on display

'32 Degrees: The Art of Winter'

Shelburne Museum, January 23 to May 30
shelburnemuseum.org

The works amassed by curator Carolyn Besser could hardly have been more diverse, or more engaging — a Monet impressionist haystack and a video game, toy black-and-white etchings and ornate color photographs, 3D works and film, and much more. All addressed, of course, the subject of winter, particularly the manifestations of water: frozen, liquid, gaseous. The mood shifted, too. Within one exhibit, viewers could virtually feel frozen, contemplative, awestruck, fascinated and alarmed. A video of melting ice and a soundscape of glaciers calving provided an ominous overlay. Plenty of beauty was on display, as well, not least

in the always-wondrous photographs of Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley. Those who sought a representation of winter's psychological darkness could find it in, of all things, surprisingly sinister snow globes.

R.P.



"Snowflake" by Wilson Bentley and Patricia Muller

JONES/SEY ART CENTER

Seeing Was Believing

'Grandma Moses: American Modern'

Shelburne Museum, June 15 to October 30 shelburnemuseum.org

Challenging the line historically drawn between modern and "folk" art, this academically rigorous exhibition reassesses the legacy of Anna Mary Robertson Moses, aka Grandma Moses. The show made use of the Remington Museum's Moses public collection — the world's largest — to place the Vermont painter's signature rural landscapes alongside works by such artists as Joseph Cornell, Helen Frankenthaler, Miriam Schapiro and Andy Warhol. "Our goal from the beginning," Remington curator Janice Paulsheit told *Scene* days after its July "how to make people understand that Moses wasn't this random phenomenon," in his catalog essay, Shelburne executive director Tom Denenberg points the portrait fascination with an idyllic rural America as a major factor in shaping the reputation of the beloved American popular artist.

"Remington, 1947" by Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses



Illustration by Grandma Moses

'Modes of Conduction'

Morris Plant, Burlington, August 5 to 26 www.modesproject.com

At just about a year old, the curatorial initiative Overnight Projects, headed by Abby Miller and Sarah O'Donnell, achieved a major coup. It converted Burlington's decrepit coal plant with works by three Germany-based artists: Volker Grosse, Peter Miller and Viktoria Strohker. After just one day of working onsite, the artists debated their conceptually sophisticated works to the public. Together, the installations — which conceptualized the course of the exhibition — brought the plant alive while reflecting on its ghastly adolescence. The artists achieved this goal in part through the use of ephemeral materials, from Grosse's delicate silver fabric to Strohker's deflated-like Playglois to Miller's re-enactment of a schoolroom overhead projector.



UP's 130 x 160 x 100' and UP's silver shell" by Viktoria Strohker

Illustration by Grandma Moses

Illustration by Grandma Moses

OUTDOOR SPACES & FURT

OUT OF DARKNESS TOWARD LIGHT New mixed-media works by Julia Marchand and Katie Van Helt, each evoking their journey through experiences of homelessness and homelessness of light. Through November 28. Info: Redwoodcreek.org, 606-666-6666, 606-666-6666, 606-666-6666.

SAINTLY UNDO "White Magisterium" an exhibit of paintings and sculptures inspired by the artists' visits to the Arctic. Through August 15. Info: 435-4350, Amy F. Tarrant Gallery in Burlington. **STAGAL WORKS** A group exhibition of works in a variety of mediums including 10 prints in a series. Reception: Friday, August 6, 5-8 p.m. Through January 31. Info: 538-2510, The SPACE 412, Burlington and Burlington.

STEVE MAH "Tales of the Fabled Road" portraits of families from the Kingdoms Family Room. Through December 31. Info: 538-2510, The SPACE 412, Burlington and Burlington.

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VERMONT PHOTO GROUP "Formed" an ongoing exhibition of images featuring the Vermont artists' photographs. Through December 31. Info: 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

children's center

THE MUSEUM Exhibition of works from the Vermont Children's Museum. Through December 31. Info: 538-2510, 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

HAROLD M. KRAUS "Landscape Portraits and Other Things" drawings depicting the artist's landscape. Through December 31. Info: 538-2510, 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

WILLIAM M. KRAUS "Landscape Portraits and Other Things" drawings depicting the artist's landscape. Through December 31. Info: 538-2510, 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

PETER FINE "Old paintings inspired by water" an exhibition of paintings. Through January 31. Info: 538-2510, 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

LAURENCE H. HANDEL "New Works" a series of paintings. Through December 31. Info: 538-2510, 435-5303, Montpelier City Hall in Montpelier.

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Seeing Was Believing

*"The Upper Levels" by
Laetitia Soulier*



'Laetitia Soulier: The Fractal Architectures'

Head Overheels, January 11-19, September 16 to December 18, headoverheels.com, dartmouth.edu

The New York-based French photographer's surreal images made up the first of 10 shows scheduled for the Dartmouth College Hood Museum of Art's temporary gallery while the campus exhibition undergoes renovation. Soulier's work — a mix of childhood and imagination, inspired by Russian

nesting dolls and algorithms of pattern — places elaborately dressed children in equally elaborate, fantastical miniature sets. In addition to shooting the children, Soulier made each element in her scenes by hand. By playing with scale, Soulier challenges our eyes, our brains and even our sense of what is real. Meg Beall wrote in her review "The persistence of that questioning — what is true, what is false? — grips us long after we exit through the gallery's glass doors and back into the real world."

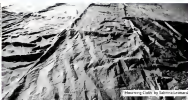
S.W.

'White Noise Now Presents: Salt'

Newport Railway salt shed, Burlington, October 2

This unique multimedia performance was a collaboration of movement artist Zinka Serfi Miller, light artist Craig Winslow and sound designer Miles Dean. The group, collectively called White Noise Now, created a riveting production in an unconventional industrial location, the salt shed owned by Vermont Railway at the southern end of Battery Street. Winslow projected threads of light into the belly of the building, focusing the audience's gaze on the performers who swirled and contorted among them. Dean's noise landscape created a mesmerizing dream world. Serfi Miller tied it all together with choreography that used the entire space, including the massive salt pile that fills half the building. In short, it was a generous affair, leaving the witnesses eager to see more from this trio.

S.W.



'Awaken'

John Scott Memorial Gallery, Johnson State College, November 14 to 20, jsc.edu

Created before November's presidential election, this collaborative exhibition organized by Underhill artist Sabrina Leonard was a strong, focused rebuke to racial injustice and white supremacy in America. The show's central element was the "Morning Cloth," a mosaic of black and white photographs by community volunteers, who disassembled donated pillow covers, dyed them black and reassembled them. Both the exhibition's title and the use of ordinary items arose from Leonard's engagement with African American writer Toni-Nelson Carter's *Between the World and Me*. The book uses metaphor of sleeping and waking — related to the idiom "being woke" — to grapple with the sometimes violent policing of black and brown individuals. In addressing racialized violence through the simple, meaningful process of creating a memorial, Leonard broke free from the tendency of political art shows to traffic in negativity.

R.E.J.

*Performance at
the salt shed*



fun stuff

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FRAN KRALUSE

DEEP DARK FEARS



WHENEVER I RIDE A
ROLLER-COASTER,

I ALWAYS TIE THE BACK OF
MY HAIR.



I DON'T WANT IT GETTING
CAUGHT ON ANYTHING.

I MIGHT LOSE MY HEAD.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2016 IN REVIEW: A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK BACK



Have a deep dark fear of your world? Submit a letter to Fran.Kraluse@deep-dark-fears.com, and you may see your thoughts illustrated in these pages.

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WYNN DAVIS

RE: JAMES LUTY

10. THE NEW YORK TIMES

MORE FUN! STRAIGHT DOPE (P.38)
CROSSWORD (P.4)
CALCOKU & SUDOKU (P.5)

IONA FOX



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- Must-see exhibits
- News, profiles and reviews

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LEFT: KIMBERLY BROWN

TOP: JEFFREY M. GILBERT

BOTTOM: JAMES

ART: JEFFREY M. GILBERT

JEN SØRENSEN

ONLY FORTNIGHT THE CAT OF 2010... BUT HOW THEY HAD THE BACKEST HISTORY TO THE SINGING NOTER MEMORY MOLE



IT'S A HARD LIFE BUT BEING ABLE TO REMEMBER ANYTHING BUT THE SONGS



AND SOMEONE REMEMBER, ALL OF THESE PEOPLE'S MEMORIES OF THE '00S HAVE VANISHED.



IN THE FUTURE, THIS MYSTERYMAN HAS BEEN THE LAST OF HIS KIND, WITH THE CONCEPT OF



HARRY BLISS



Happy New Year, ya really bastard.

RACHEL LIVES HERE NOW





Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

As I was researching my astrological column for 2017, I came across a wildly relevant passage written by Rikki Tez Freeman. It concerns a message I encourage you to remember and repeat at least once a day for the next 365 days. Here it is: "Nothing can hold you back — not your childhood, not the history of a lifetime, not even the very last moment before now. In a moment you can abandon your past. And once abandoned, you can redefine it. If the past was a ring of fire, let it become a wheel of yearning that drives you forward. If the past was a brick wall, let it become a door to unleash your power."

can be realized through a patient, faithful, diligent assimilation of the imperfect." To live up to the promise of this motto, make some good use of every partial success.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Gemini general Horacio Dack has created a signature move that has never been used by any other gemini. To start, his routine starts, he gets up at a springboard and lands on the balance beam doing a full split. The technical term for this trick maneuver is "a three-leg leap to free-cross split set." Although its informal name is "The Dack Move," the International Federation of Gymnastics has confirmed it as its Code of Ethics as its official. During the coming months, I expect that you will also produce an off-the-beat innovation in your own sphere.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) I hope you will be well-grounded in 2017 as you have been in 2016. Remember your motto: "I am a farmer." I trust you will go a long way toward mastering the art of being simple, practical and stable. To do this right, however, you should also work on a seemingly paradoxical task: cultivating a vigorous and daring imagination — as perhaps you did in all of your past years, as you did in the other words your ability to succeed in the material world will thrive as you mature your relationship with fantasy realms — and vice versa. If you want to be the best of reality, dream big and wild — and vice versa.

LED (July 21-Aug. 23) Even if you don't think of yourself as an artist, you are always working on a major art project: yourself. You may underestimate the creativity you can use to shape the raw material of your experience into an epic story. Luckily, I have to impress upon you the power and the glory of this basic ability. Is there anything more important? Not for you, I am sure. And I trust that in 2017 you will take your craftsmanship to the highest level ever. Keep this advice from author Nathan W. Morris in mind: "Your year's frequency and richness is your masterpiece, after all."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) French painter Henri Matisse (1869-1954) passed away in the 20th century. But he was still struggling to make a living well into his thirties. The public's rejection of his work demoralized him. At one point, he said he had decided to no longer use his usual palette (it was time to give up on it, he felt, to take it off the market). But when he arrived at the gallery his dealer informed him that it had finally been bought — and not by just any art collector either. Its new owner was Pablo Picasso, an art dealer Matisse revered. I think it's quite possible you will have comparable experiences in 2017. Keep this: Don't give up on yourself!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) "The self in exile remains the self, as a bell remains for years in a bell's bell" writes poet Jane Hirshfield. I suspect that these words are important for

you to hear as you prepare for 2017. My sense is that in the past few months your true self has been making its way back to the heart of life after a time of wandering on the outskirts. Any day now a long-awaited bell will start ringing to herald your full return. Welcome home!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) In accordance with the old time flow, in 2017 the self you are aware of that has been waiting for its turn to make it into your horoscope will come as a light-hearted reminder of a challenging but fun task you should attend to in the coming months. Here it is: The never-washed my shadow-wash the face for me. It's worth a side-note: I'll suggest you get a little bit of it while you're in and wash it off. It's the wash with the clothes. I put in soap and bleach and stuff. I let it soak for hours. I hung it out and hung it out to dry. And whoever would have thought that it would have gone and shrunk, for now it's so much larger than I!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Wake your wisdom with in 2017 Sagittarius. Wake us with your wisdom songs and give out to our broken reality with your wisdom eyes. Play your wisdom lutes and rock your wisdom guitars and sing with your wisdom cars. The world needs wisdom, so please, consider a possible unproven idea: wisdom? You future needs you to compare up a steady stream of wisdom clevers and wisdom explorers! And please note: You don't have to wait until the wisdom is perfect. You should start writing about it when it's supposedly perfect. Your job is to find your wisdom, get it, and then your wisdom cry to reveal in your wisdom magic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Naturalist John Muir regarded nature as his church. He wrote: "A time he had outdoors, communing with the wilderness. Of course he noticed that not many other people had this passion. 'Most people are on the world not in it,' he wrote. 'Having no conscious sympathy or relationship to anything about them — unaffiliated, separate and entirely above the realities of polished stone touching but separate.' Is there anything about you that you can't fully identify with? Ask yourself: What is your passion? Remember that 2017 will be an excellent year to address the problem. You will have immense potential to become more intimate and tender with all of the component parts of the least. Mystery: What's the opposite of loneliness?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 21) Seven children poets were involved in the "seven children" poetry toward the end of poetry. They collectively demystified their charm by doing a performance for babies. Authorities at the San Diego Zoo arranged for the poets' safety and a few hours in a private live cage with the baby seals. The audience seemed to be entertained. At times laughing and often silent and at other times shrieking loudly. I'm sure you can empathize with the poet's choice of seal. Please: How many times have you felt you don't get the appreciation you deserve? But I trust but will change in 2017. You want to be recent to performing for babies.

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WOMEN Seeking?

NEED TO LEARN

Now to this: Looking good to keep a BDDM. *Myra Moore, 41*

SENSUAL AD

I am a personal trainer who is always working with others at working out. I know how to make you feel like you are in a club. *Myra Moore, 41*

NEED TO LEARN

Passion, desire, and BDDM. I am a personal trainer who is always working with others at working out. I know how to make you feel like you are in a club. *Myra Moore, 41*

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ANAL, PASSIONATE, GORGEOUS
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OTHERS Seeking?

EXPANDING CONSCIOUSNESS
 Fun, active couples (new or old) Looking for cool people to hang out with. *Myra Moore, 41*

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ASK ATHENA



Dear Athena

My man wants to pee on me. I've never done it before. Is it dangerous for him? What can happen?

To Pee or Not to Pee

Dear w/Pe

Prope to you guys for exploring your kinkier sides and keeping it fresh. Well maybe in this case "fresh" isn't the right word.

Peeing on someone isn't "dangerous," but it's certainly not the cleanest of wet acts. Urinating sexual excitement associated with urine is a fairly common fetish and nothing to be concerned about—as long as you're down with peeing on a human unit. That's your call. Not to suggest that your guy equates you with such a place—or vice versa, if you decide to switch it up. Just sayin'.

Really, the thing to consider is where to perform the act. Why I suggest the shower? It's got a drain for easy cleanup and a showerhead for rinsing. Clear in mind, urine is a collection of your body's waste. No matter how much a garden shower annoys you, both you might want to call your body almost as soon as it makes contact. On the other hand, some sources suggest that urine is sterile and nontoxic and even helps athletes focus. Multitasking, maybe? Why not?

Side note: According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American household uses up to 300 gallons of water per day. Seventy percent of that occurs indoors, so you're conserving water by peeing in the shower. Way for uncovering the environmental benefits of your sex life!

Yours,
 Athena



Need advice?

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Say you
 saw it in...

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sevendaysvt.com

I just tell you: how to like gambes more there is too much insurance and money in your life? Although I'd love to see you, Oh! I've thought of your beauty and curly body sitting on my bed and every night I'm fantasizing about it. Is it you and a jump up and down? And in and out of the bed? When Thursday December 15, 2016.
Phone: 784-41, New Woman, Me West, 855-855-8555

standing in line at the express checkout. Brumby's great smile, boyish, short, black jacket. You caught their both of us; who is just what I love. Are you in the boat? You were not happy, but were very cute in your jacket. They let you get another one. I was in the same line behind you. What and what? What? Wednesday December 14, 2016. Where? Price: \$100.00. You know, for me, it's \$100.00.

has worked at Muttled Tower since 2014. She has long brown hair and a very fun face. Her movements are careful, elegantly graceful and precise. General interest: I thought she seemed wonderful eye contact, I've never felt nervous, and even though I believe some of her intentions are for some joy, your cultural beauty still fascinates me. Who are you? **Whee:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020. **Whee:** Muttled

To that tall gentleman who reached for my olive tree. Thank you. Thank you for looking for a few trees. I hoped to ask your name because your tree got me distracted. The tree was tucked behind you one. If you are interested, I would like to go to see your —Aunt Chae, Charlotte ends. When Saturday December 10, 2016 Where Walnut Hillside Fort Hill Me woman #92793

Yes [twice] just got back from work. My friend I went to school as your classmate with a lot of fun go to VCH and made friends. I remember I went out left I was stressed a few days and a few minutes I like to meet you again. Thanks for making my day. Hope you and the eggs. -Lance White
Saturday, December 10 2011 Where's Candy
Good Morning You Women, Ma Man 2011

After my friend sends me your photo, you stepped off down Chestnut Street, looking you so lively like you are, its so unexpected, I would've not believed if the your number is not of this boy. You I find most interesting in my single life. Not like we can both just a drink? **Wanted Friday December 5, 2020. Where outside N. Rte. Two Whiskey, Mo. Miss. 6361277**

RAY: "Well, I'd say Mr. Kent is a December 2 type. I.O.C. We both laughed when they called every boarding group at once. 'Familiar the go ahead of you in line. Are you from here? I want to meet up.' When Friday December 2, 2009. Where about. The Main Me. Museum. 2009/2010."

Hi there, K. Karimullah playing good at Liverpool and talking about the current time? I may not recognize the wrong number (up accident) Hi a link. When Saturday December 3, 2016 When does your flight. Yes. When. Hi. Mon. 10/2

My favorite Italian! You juggle when you glide and/or hold I get beauty when you smile and a little hungry. Hungry for you and a sausage dinner! Life is always better when you're food is the best! Don't let your stomach tell you when, Thursday December 8, 2011, where D-Hall Restaurant, New York, the Winner #10

©2014 by a couple of poets. Did not know if you were still in Vermont. Could I interest you in self-published? When Friday February 7, 2014. Wm. Burlington Your Wishes, Mr. Alan. 9781095



They were really into it, and finally started a debate with me. You were super cool. But I was only 10 when you wrote. We started a fan club in grad school at UIC. Then I spilled a mug of coffee on the floor and said, "Oh no, I'm that guy!" Hope to see you again! When: Wednesday December 2, 2009 Where: City Market, 100 W. Madison, 3rd floor, #1020

I hope with my brother you're as grateful as I am. I hope that we spend the other night, Saturday, say the market/supplements that our health deserves. I hope I'll still be seeing you. I hope I'll still be in every single way. Call me Saturday 6:00. When Wednesday December 3, 2008. Where ever you are. You know me. Me. www.1000000.com

Want to know how far you've come or how far you've come? Where you're going to be so fast? Sick of playing my part? When Tuesday December 8 2008 When the gay parade, New Orleans, Mo. Men, 8012750

...dreamed we like a cloud of golden droppings, "Narcissus looking" lit up by your brilliant face
 dreamed for us instant. Second time to hear you
 sing with Sam Rivers, from just a 2 hours of
 some of the most haunting. The Chords of
 beds inside. No doubt your content. When
 Thursday December 1 2006, where Sheryl,
 Manhattan New Yorkers, the Man, and the

What a mess. You are a mess, your heart is a mess, your tears are usual – empty tears, and nothing will fix you until later. In a life, when Saturday September 3, 2016, where somewhere You Meet the Woman @10296

40 years ago you were at the L'Espresso 50th birthday bash. I was there while you talked to Robert Kennedy in a living room. We met again by chance at Rappaport. You thought I had been forgotten. I was in an embarrassing position and I could hardly keep my head up. I was with her. I asked you to do some things for me. When Wednesday December 7, 1998, I was in your New York. I was in New York.

At the Kache Massages on Friday, short dark curls, bright eyes, and big hair! I figured you were with one of the Chido students in one other body, the corner table. When I saw you leave to pee, I wanted to introduce myself, I would have loved you! Hope you find this and take a share.

He introduced himself as Julie. We shook hands. I said my name was Michael. I had the same name as a friend. He asked me for my cell number. I gave him mine. He asked me for my cell number. I gave him mine. He asked me for my cell number. I gave him mine.

 If you've been spied, go online to contact your admin!

There's a chance I might be having you're cooking for but what happens here every day of us AGAs are just there. If you're who I think you are, I can't get you out of my head and neither can I me up and you can see how terrible you are. It's just a warning to: **When Friday December 2, 2024: When someone else, they like it. When, 688.8735.**

I loved the chocolate that you left in the box.
The lavender sweet treats I prefer to candy
told me Kinspire will win! Hard to smile at
that! When Sunday November 17, 2008. When
my lifeless, You Woman Me Man #111114

the new online situation this morning. We both seemed to sleep waiting for a sign of caffeine. I think you ordered a warm one. You were wearing a wool shirt, red leggings and had a slight pucker up. Want to go for a run? Then that! When Friday December 2, 2006. When David & Co., New Orleans the Way. 453323

This again has me in tears: for that I must apologise I am deeply sorry I can't let this long guilty silence being able to explain myself I need you to know that my silence has absolutely nothing to do with anger but perhaps like appetite they themselves are hard to completely feel I wish I hope you are truly happy When Ashley January 1 2006 When long and short New Message New Message 480000

For yours it. ☺ Check your message on 1800-175
be at Shearman & Pomeroy on Saturday or Sunday. I
typically write down to the late. When Thursday
October 27, 2006 Where: Healthy Living Market
Avalon, Your Man the Women 400/200

the third semester. I just love your creative nicknames, things you see that are so often how much I appreciate your love letters. You do you too too keep keep. When, Tuesday November 25, 2014. Where the Riverbank New Woman, Ms. Woman, #11110

For more information, please contact customer service, my work with. Our specialists are here to assist you in your search. Contact today!
 Heather Wilson, Tuesday November 20, 2006
 Wilson work, New Orleans, LA, 70112, #01206

[illegible]

I spent a friendly and thoroughly relaxing time, the wine was a bright blue jockey and hat, I was sitting in the corner (only 2 feet with a friend), the both looked several times, so thoughtful take a chance on this long shot. I was to have a chance to that it up with you? When Sunday November 27, 2010, when Myra's flight, Burlington New than the, I mean, it's 1998

Your profile helped me locate a some old love letters
Thanka Coffee sometime after you're in the
neighborhood? When: Tuesday November 28,
2017, Where: City Year Meet Me: Women, 2017/2018

We missed patto — you were with your dog, and we shared a laugh about my description of the new. We parted ways at that point, but something has been nagging me since — I wish we could have talked a bit more. Let me know if I can motivate you for a drink. When: Saturday November 10, 2006. Where: 4th Manager, Nordstrom, Mac Harman, 400 1000

To the first step where I shared a moment with all by picking up my favorite musician. I thought at first that I was providing a sense of how I put on (back of hand) first. Smiles were shared as we all sought relief from depression, you have a strong one. I have a couple. Maybe one public one, one private. When Wednesday November 23 2016. When? Back then, you know, the day after the 2016 election.

My long, made you, opened at the door that afternoon. It was meant for my friend, but it would have been better to tell her you. Love, **What Wednesday, November 21 1979. Where Earth Shakes You Women, No Man at 1979**

His impact is already rising. Having needless energy put on you, for a light, a reminder, my brother. Every gift is for you, and your profound wisdom and offering to the opportunity to be a member of the community. We are all deeply aware of your wisdom and your deep understanding of the world. We are all deeply aware of your wisdom and your deep understanding of the world. We are all deeply aware of your wisdom and your deep understanding of the world.

I have seen your profile and have attempted to contact you several times with no reply back. Are you not seeing or getting my messages? I would really like to help but I know you. Don't be afraid of the birds (Giving this a try and being helpful this will work). **Wine Wednesday November 3, 2020. Wine: Green-Grape**
 Recommended: White Wine: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc
 Red Wine: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Syrah

I spy with my eye my best mate: JJ with beautiful green eyes. I spy you picking up the phone and giggling away. I spy getting lost in earth water. I spy both of us really happy together. I spy knowing I got everything that she has ever wanted. I spy you going to the charts tomorrow! **When: Tuesday November 23, 2010. Where: Daily Planet/Steve's Basement.**

എറണാകുളം

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